

## Iraqi president shows no willingness to negotiate and renews call for a holy war against US

## Arabs urged to topple Fahd and Mubarak

By MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Saddam Hussein yesterday turned against his former allies with a call for Arabs and Muslims to topple King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and President Mubarak of Egypt.

Showing no indication that he was willing to negotiate a peaceful end to the confrontation in the Gulf, he renewed his call for a holy war against America. Five million Iraqis were ready to fight and were sure of victory if America attacked.

Iraqi children were dying as a result of the UN trade embargo aimed at forcing him out of the Gulf. "They are starving a whole people to death," he said. The Arab masses, particularly the dispossessed, should rise up against their corrupt leaders who were being "manipulated by the devil". Singling out King Fahd and Mr Mubarak, he said: "We call on them (the people) to revolt against their rulers and traitors."

In his last speech a week ago, President Saddam had appealed to Mr Mubarak in respectful terms to help him to confront Saudi Arabia. The change of tack showed he was running out of options, while at the same time was unwilling to make any concessions to the international community.

Yesterday's speech, read on Baghdad television by a spokesman, came as the Iraqi foreign minister, Tariq Aziz, flew to Moscow for talks with President Gorbachev, and as King Hussein of Jordan arrived in Baghdad. Both mis-

sions were designed to try to find a regional solution before the US-Soviet summit on Sunday, but President Saddam's remarks suggested they had little chance of success.

He said Israel had driven America to act against Iraq and declared: "This is a war between right and wrong."

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## British hostage accuses embassy

The Foreign Office and the British embassy in Kuwait are accused of complicity and inefficiency in a letter to *The Times* today from a British woman interned by the Iraqis after attempting to escape from Kuwait. Kirsty Norman says the embassy was advising Britons to remain in their homes when they knew escape was possible.

Victory is very near. Five million volunteers were ready to boost the million-strong Iraqi army. "If the invaders want to attack, they need at least 12 million soldiers. They will be disastrously defeated, their dens in the region will be wiped out if they dare a military challenge."

"The air forces will not carry out a battle in this land, despite its technology." Like the people of Vietnam, the Iraqis were strong-willed and would "crush the footsteps of the Americans from Saudi Arabia and the whole region".

In a speech laced with recitations from the Koran, President Saddam vowed to liberate Jerusalem from Israeli rule, and he praised the "Palestinians of the intifada, the people of the stones who are fighting the Zionists in their own lands."

Surprisingly, President Saddam made no direct reference to the American secretary of state, James Baker, who on Tuesday told Congress that American forces might remain in the Middle East after the crisis as part of a new regional security order. That suggestion was, however, the subject of harsh criticism in the Iraqi media earlier in the day when the state-run news agency said

it confirmed suspicions that the deployment of American forces in Saudi Arabia was "part of a pre-meditated conspiracy to control Arab oil and to occupy the Arab and Islamic holy places".

Mr Baker yesterday again floated the idea of a Middle East regional security structure to contain Iraq once its troops were ousted from Kuwait. In appearances before the House and Senate foreign affairs committees over the past two days, Mr Baker gave only an outline of his thinking, but suggested that such a security structure would involve "major Arab participation" backed by a long-term American military presence in the region, probably naval.

It would seek a new equilibrium and balance of power in the region and would involve a continued international arms embargo against Iraq and the strengthening of the military forces of moderate Arab nations.

Britain is believed to be in general agreement with the United States on the probable need to retain at least some forces in the region after an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, depending on Gulf states asking them to stay.

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, is understood to have noted a change of mood during his tour of nine Middle East cities, where it had previously been assumed that Western forces would never again be welcome in the Middle East.

Meanwhile, the search for a diplomatic solution continued with the arrival of Tariq Aziz in Moscow, the second visit by a senior Iraqi official since the invasion of Kuwait.

Mr Aziz was expected to stay for only a few hours and was likely to get a frosty reception. Soviet officials have signalled increasing exasperation with Baghdad and the Tass news agency left little doubt that Mr Gorbachev would take a firm line.

Tass said senior foreign ministry officials "have repeatedly stated that Moscow favours the exhaustive use of political means to settle the crisis in the Gulf, caused by Iraq's unprovoked invasion of Kuwait". The Soviet Union wanted to maintain permanent diplomatic contact with Iraqi leaders, but until now, contacts with Baghdad had not produced the desired result. The phrasing of the report suggested that Moscow would decline further discussion if Iraq showed no sign of movement.



Fight for water: two desperate refugees struggle over a bottle of water in a camp on the Iraqi border as they await clearance to enter Jordan

## Heath a threat to Commons unity

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE House of Commons returns today, for the first time during a recess since 1982, for a showpiece debate intended by the government and Opposition to demonstrate the wide support in Britain for defeating President Saddam Hussein and securing Iraq's unconditional withdrawal from Kuwait.

The mood of unity could be threatened however by dissenting voices in both main political parties. It emerged last night that Edward Heath, the former prime minister, is preparing to intervene in the debate to sound a warning against early military action in the Gulf.

Mr Heath, according to friends, is concerned about the hawkish noises coming from the Pentagon and some American politicians, and will argue that the diplomatic channels should be exhausted before war is contemplated. A group of Labour MPs led by Tony Benn are to take their misgivings to a vote tomorrow at the end of the two-day debate.

Neil Kinnock, in one of the most important speeches of his Labour leadership, is expected to offer full support for the action taken so far by the government in response to Iraqi aggression. He will do so in a manner intended to underline there is no imminent threat to the bipartisanship that has characterised the political approach in Britain to the invasion.

Sources close to the Labour leader emphasised yesterday that Mr Kinnock believes a peaceful outcome is possible if the world community continues to act together to defeat President Hussein. Mr Kinnock will again stress as he did in his TUC speech that if force is necessary to defeat the Iraqi leader it should be force supported by the international community. About two-thirds of MPs are expected to attend the debate.

## International miners block Scargill money

By KEVIN EASON

THE National Union of Mineworkers could be forced into a long, bitter legal battle to reclaim more than £1 million in missing donations held in foreign bank accounts and settle the future of its president, Arthur Scargill.

Only 24 hours after the NUM president was cleared of mismanaging funds, the union was thrown into further turmoil when Alain Simon, secretary-general of the International Mineworkers' Organisation (IMO), refused to hand over the money. M Simon would not accept the findings of the NUM enquiry that money collected by Soviet miners and held in the international mineworkers' Paris account was intended to

ease the hardship of British miners during the 1984-85 national pit strike.

It now seems likely that the NUM will have to go to court to retrieve the money, paving the way for a damaging internal conflict which will determine whether Mr Scargill can continue as the union's president. Officers from the fraud squad will today interview four Soviet miners at Scotland Yard, who are demanding to know why their colleagues went to the international organisation and not to the NUM strike funds.

Sergei Kozlov, leading the delegation from the Soviet Democratic Labour Movement, said yesterday: "These people who collected the money over the years, the people who handed the money over, we worked our days off to raise this money and if these resources were collected are not used for what they were intended, then there will be serious anger and bitterness among the Soviet mining community, especially as this means that these resources were gathered by lying to us," he said.

Mr Scargill and Peter Heathfield, the NUM general secretary, were due to fly to Paris with the investigation team on Monday to arrange the transfer of the £1 million from the French account to

the NUM. However, M Simon has expressed surprise at the conclusions of the four-man enquiry team and confirmed that the Soviet donations were intended for an international fund controlled by the IMO.

He said in an interview on television: "The NUM has received some money from this fund, but the fund is not for the NUM." His statement shattered the NUM's show of unity at the TUC conference in Blackpool, after the enquiry team had indicated that the investigation into the donations was over and the union could reclaim cash which belonged to British miners.

George Rees, one of the enquiry team and South Wales NUM secretary, said he would not go to Paris to be "made a fool of" by M Simon. "Arthur Scargill has offered his full co-operation and now this happens. Arthur had a

Continued on page 24, col 2

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## Alternate cancer cure puzzle

By JILL SHERMAN

DOCTORS were last night mystified by a study which showed that breast cancer patients were less likely to survive if they had alternative therapy as well as orthodox treatment, rather than conventional medicine alone.

The study shows that women attending the Bristol Cancer Help Centre, which offers counselling, meditation and a special diet, were nearly three times more likely to relapse than those getting conventional treatment at NHS hospitals. The findings are certain to reopen the debate on the benefits of alternative medicine.

Neither the centre nor the Institute of Cancer Research, which carried out the study, could offer any explanation for the "surprising" results, although they suggested that psychological factors or the centre's stringent diet could have played a part.

Details, page 3

INSIDE  
Teacher for every class

A huge recruiting drive has enabled schools throughout the country to start the term with a teacher in front of every class, local education authorities reported yesterday.

The only reported cases of children being sent home because of teacher shortages were in Hackney, east London, where more than 100 children were turned away.

## Cambodia talks

The United States is to begin direct talks for the first time with the Vietnamese-installed government in Cambodia, James Baker, US Secretary of State, said yesterday. He said he had been encouraged by the acceptance by the Hun Sen government of the UN plan to end civil war.

## Caradon dies

Lord Caradon, who as Sir Hugh Foot was governor of the island of Cyprus at the time it came to independence, died yesterday. Throughout his career he was a great orator and campaigner for minority rights. He was made a life peer in 1964 and continued to speak in the House of Lords until shortly before his death.

## Atom approval

Controversial plans to build Britain's next nuclear power station at Hinkley Point in Somerset have been approved by a public enquiry. Mr John Wakeham, the energy secretary, will announce today.

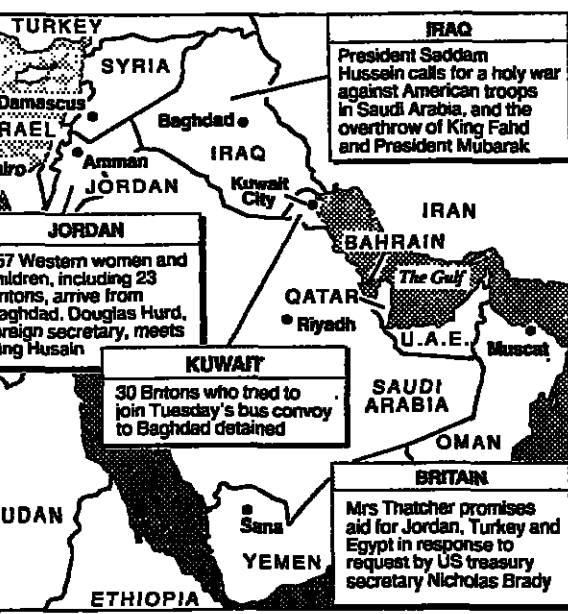
## Degree courses

A list of vacancies for British degree courses in physical sciences, medicine, dentistry and biological sciences is published today. Vacancies in modern languages, engineering technology and mathematics will be published tomorrow.

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OS



## Few crumbs of comfort for deprived Moscow

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY  
IN MOSCOW

BREAD, almost the only food for which Muscovites have not had to queue in recent weeks, has vanished from nearly a quarter of the capital's shops and the city council has placed bakeries on a virtual war footing. Troops have been sent to work in state bakeries which are short of manpower and mobile bakeries have been requisitioned from the army for areas where the local factory is out of commission or cannot cope.

Gavril Popov, the mayor of Moscow, and Yuri Luzhkov, the chairman of the city's executive council, have assured the public that the shortage is "local and temporary" but the population is unconvinced.

"If there is no bread, that is the end," would-be customers said yesterday.

"We're used to shortages of everything, but bread... that's the staple."

Grounds for believing that the shortage is here to stay came in a directive from President Gorbachev to all republican and local authorities on Tuesday. He expressed "serious concern" about delays in supplies of grain and accused grain-producing areas of withholding deliveries.

Although this year's grain harvest is expected to be a record for recent years, possibly reaching 260 million tonnes, most areas are experiencing acute difficulties in harvesting, due to too few workers, too few combines, too little fuel, inadequate storage and too few lorries to transport the crop. Before the president's directive, the media had avoided suggesting that grain was being withheld, presumably to prevent the idea spreading. If there

is only a limited response to the directive, the central government has the option of compulsory requisition or letting go of one of its chief levers of central economic control.

Mr Popov said during his weekly appearance on television that Moscow faced no problem with grain or with flour. The bread problem began at the bakeries. By the end of August their capacity was stretched to the limit, as it was every year, because of the return of families to Moscow at the end of the summer holidays. This year, the situation had been aggravated by bad weather, by a severe labour shortage at the bakeries and by the lack of anything else to eat.

As with the tobacco shortage, which has eased a little with the introduction of rationing in Moscow at the weekend, Mr Popov said the main problem was the obsolescence and

poor state of repair of the plants. The Moscow bakeries were 30 years old but there was no money to refit them.

A common view is that the spate of shortages — fruit and vegetables, meat, alcohol, sugar, cigarettes and now bread — is the result of "sabotage" by political conservatives trying to hold on to their power or by organized crime syndicates referred to as "mafia". The KGB has an interest in encouraging the second view.

There have been tobacco riots in both Moscow and Leningrad in the past two weeks in protest against shortages of cigarettes.

BAT profits reduced, page 25

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A01







# Cancer patients at holistic centre 'are more likely to die'

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

WOMEN with breast cancer who receive alternative therapy at a centre in Bristol as well as orthodox treatment are more likely to die than patients undergoing conventional treatment only, according to a study to be published in *The Lancet* tomorrow.

The study, which could be a significant setback for alternative medicine in Britain, showed that patients attending the Bristol Cancer Help Centre were three times as likely to suffer a relapse, with the cancer spreading to other parts of the body. In addition, women whose cancer had already started spreading when they arrived at the centre were twice as likely to die as women who went only to national health service hospitals. Researchers from the Institute of Cancer Research, who carried out the study jointly with the centre using control groups at the Royal Marsden, Sutton, Surrey, and two other hospitals in the South-East, said that they were baffled by the results.

They did concede, however, that psychological factors predisposing certain women to attend the centre may have influenced the results. A separate study to assess the emotional state and attitudes of women before they attend the centre, compared to patients undergoing orthodox treatment only, is now being carried out.

The centre, which sees about 1,000 patients a year, offers a treatment based on relaxation and meditation, psychological counselling, spiritual healing and a diet of

mainly vegetarian organically grown foods. Many doctors refer patients there in the belief that it helps people to adopt a more positive outlook to their disease. Patients attend for a day or a week, with fees ranging from £100 to £600 and about half of them return for further treatment.

The study compared 334 breast cancer patients who attended the centre for the first time between June 1986 and October 1987 with 461 patients from the Royal Marsden, the Crawley hospital, West Sussex, and New Royal Surrey County hospital, Guildford, Surrey. All the women were followed until June 1988.

Professor Clair Chilvers, who led the research team, told a press conference that other factors may have influenced the results. The stringent diet recommended by the centre may have been followed too rigorously when patients were at home, so that they lost too much weight. Alternatively, the women who attended the Bristol centre could, in a subtle way, have had a more advanced cancer than patients undergoing orthodox treatment only.

Professor Chilvers said that the two groups of women were at the same clinical stage of the disease, and the numbers receiving drug therapy and radiotherapy were similar. Although the Bristol group was, on average, younger than the control group and more had had mastectomies, there was no scientific evidence that this would alter the aggressiveness of the disease, she said.

There was also no evidence that patients at the centre had delayed going back to their consultant when they had suspected a relapse. The handful of patients who refused to accept orthodox treatment were excluded from the study.

Professor Chilvers said: "It could be that Bristol attendees have a psychological response to their cancer that is different. But there might be some element of the Bristol regime that does harm. The Bristol centre is known for its diet, although it is much less stringent than in the past."

Doctors now working in orthodox medicine felt that, if patients went to the Bristol centre, it might not do them any good but would not do them any harm, she said. "I think that attitude is going to have to change a bit."

Dr Michael Wetzler, one of the doctors at the centre, emphasised that the report was an interim one and should not be considered in isolation without the psychological study. While not accepting the results as conclusive, he said: "If someone were to die a little bit earlier with a better quality of life, then I think there is no problem."

Penny Brohn, who founded the Bristol centre in 1980, said that it was known for its gentle approach and offered patients a good diet full of nutritional food. "Clearly we have a ghost in the machine here," she said that the "puzzling" results should not be exploited by people who did not favour alternative therapy. "We must not let a small blip have devastating consequences."

## Doctors may have clue to cot deaths

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

A MECHANISM that explains why some babies die suddenly has been discovered by three British doctors. The discovery could be a big step towards understanding cot deaths, which claim the lives of 2,000 babies in Britain every year.

The doctors examined infants prone to sudden attacks in which they turn blue and lose consciousness. A sudden shock, pain, or moment of fear triggers the attack in which the amount of oxygen in the blood drops, causing loss of consciousness. The findings were published this week in *Archives of Disease in Childhood*.

Dr David Southall and Dr Martin Samuels, from Brompton hospital, and Dr David Talbot, of the Royal Postgraduate medical school, studied 51 infants with a history of attacks. In most cases the attacks began when the child was awake and was surprised

or alarmed in some way, provoking a cry or an attempt to cry.

Blood vessels around the lungs would open and allow blood from the heart to bypass the lungs, where it normally picks up oxygen. As a result, the blood quickly became starved of oxygen, throwing the baby into a coma.

The finding is consistent with that of other researchers who in post-mortem examinations have found that some cot-death babies do have a number of blood vessels that bypass the lungs.

Dr Southall and his colleagues are testing a treatment based on their findings. The treatment involves the drug tetraethazine, which prevents the production of noradrenaline by the brain, and the use of oxygen to counter the drop in blood-oxygen levels. Of 15 patients treated all showed improvements and in most cases the attacks were eliminated.

## MP renews call for Aids compensation

By JOHN WINDER

A RENEWED campaign to win compensation for haemophilia sufferers infected with Aids-contaminated blood will begin when Parliament returns next month.

Alfred Morris, MP for Manchester Wythenshawe and former Labour minister for the disabled, has already tabled a question to Kenneth Clarke, health secretary, for reply on the day the Commons resumes. He wants to know why the government is withholding documents from the victims' legal advisers and if the minister will allow their release.

Efforts to get compensation have foundered because some victims have incomes too high to qualify for legal aid but cannot afford a complicated legal case. The case of Gerald

Hillary, aged 16, who died last year, has already been referred by Mr Morris to William Reid, the health service ombudsman. Mr Reid has said, however, that he cannot act as the Haemophilia Society is already taking legal action. "Presumably Mr Reid's presumption was that if the society was litigating, it would be on behalf of all. That is not correct," Mr Morris said.

The society was not acting for all cases. Mr Hillary's family cannot afford to fight a legal action and the health department is blocking access to documents required for any proper adjudication by the courts, Mr Morris said. "Only the Ombudsman can penetrate the darkness, because there is no door in Whitehall he cannot open."

search, who carried out the study jointly with the centre using control groups at the Royal Marsden, Sutton, Surrey, and two other hospitals in the South-East, said that they were baffled by the results.

They did concede, however, that psychological factors predisposing certain women to attend the centre may have influenced the results. A separate study to assess the emotional state and attitudes of women before they attend the centre, compared to patients undergoing orthodox treatment only, is now being carried out.

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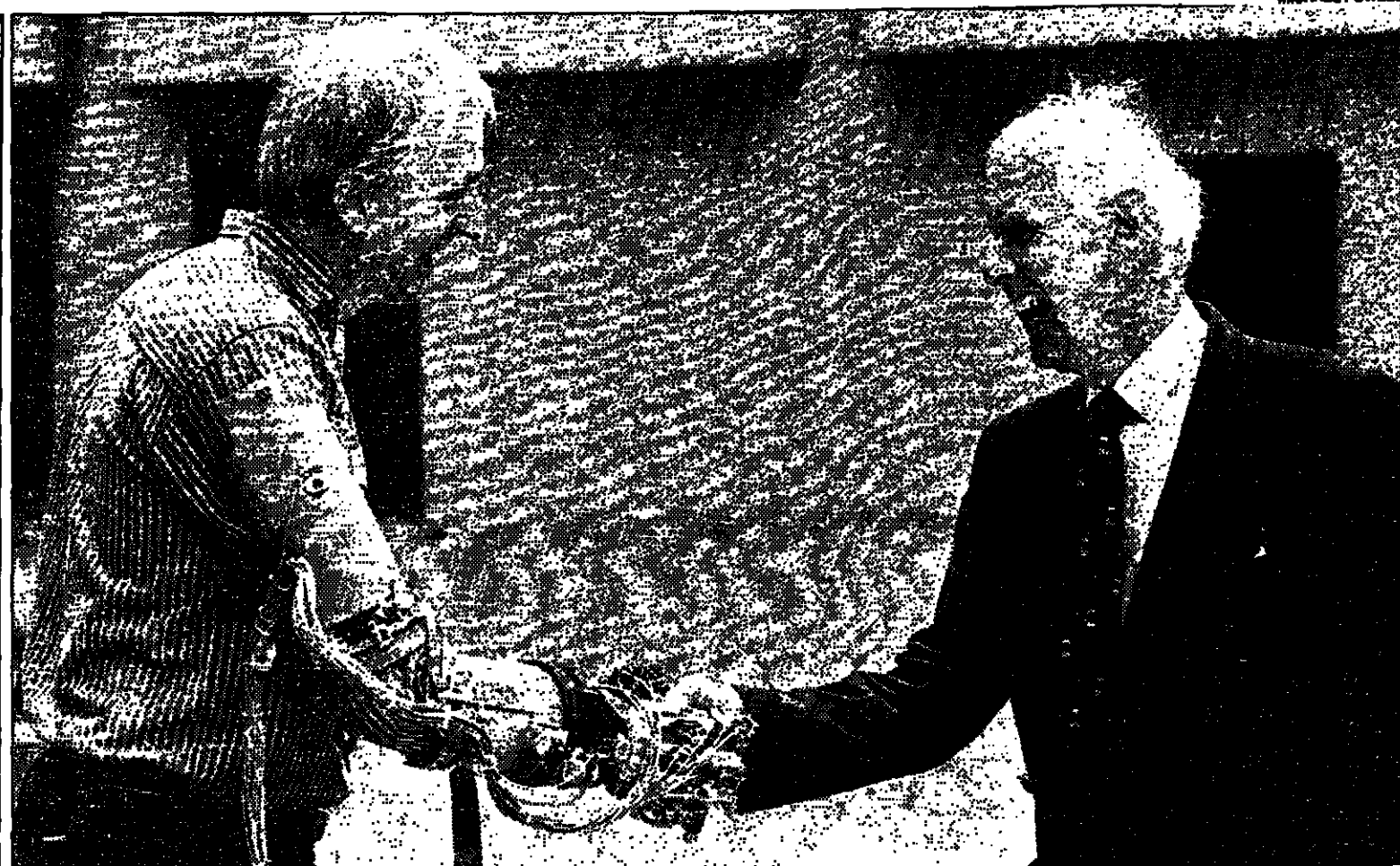
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Bionic handshake: Richard Greenhill, wearing a data-glove used for training robots to perform hand movements, meets Arthur Collie, a fellow competitor in the first International Robotic Olympics, to take place in Scotland later this month. Over 50 competitors, using the latest developments in computer and engineering technology,

will aim to show that their robots can do more than spray car bodies or weld sheets of metal (Nick Nuttall writes).

The robots, taking part in events organised by the Turing Institute at Strathclyde university, will scale tall buildings, run over rough terrain, swim, ski, mow a lawn and pick up litter. Mechanical participants from

the Soviet Union, Canada, the United States, Japan, Singapore, Mexico, Canada and several European countries are taking part in the event, to be held on September 27 and 28. Duncan Mathews, head of the technology unit at NatWest, one of the sponsors, said: "Through the fun aspects of the event we hope to heighten public awareness

of the potential uses for robots." Should had weather stop the games, the organisers can call on Martin Smith, of the East London polytechnic, who was demonstrating Wilberforce, a robotic arm that doubles as a butler.

Science and technology, page 14

## German plan may change air shows at Farnborough

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, AIR CORRESPONDENT

THE present Farnborough air show, the showcase of the British aerospace industry, may be the last of its kind after pressure from the powerful new German aerospace industry for a European aviation exhibition spectacular.

Frustrated at being denied an effective "shop window" of its own, the German industry, led by Deutsche Aerospace, wants a site to be developed in East Germany as the leading air show venue.

Its proposals, still to be worked out in detail, could lead to air shows being rotated on a tri-annual basis between Paris, Farnborough and the new East German site. They are to be discussed at the end of the month by representatives of the nine European nations with aviation interests.

The German move to bring future air shows under a single European "umbrella" follows the abandoning of further events at Hannover, where the show was cancelled after protests about noise and the involvement of military equipment manufacturers.

Jürgen Schrempf, chairman of Deutsche Aerospace, formed last year from a merger of Daimler-Benz, MBE, MTU, AEG, Dornier and Telefunken, said at Farnborough: "We are already looking at sites near East Berlin and in other major cities at present still within East Germany."

One possibility is the development of a large Russian air base near East Berlin once Soviet forces have withdrawn. "We believe that such a venue could provide a perfect place for East and West to meet, and, because it could be provided in a non built-up area, it could also have new roads and even a monorail to

get there quickly," Herr Schrempf said.

A major problem with Farnborough and Paris is access by often-congested roads.

The German argument for changing the organisation of the shows will be put to a meeting of the Association Européenne des Constructeurs de Matériel Aérospatial by Johan Schäffer, president of the German aerospace manufacturers' association, the BDLL.

A spokesman for the Society of British Aerospace Companies, which organises the Farnborough show, said: "We suggested some years ago that airshows should rotate between Britain, France, and Germany so that each country held one every three years, but our proposals were turned down by the French who insisted on holding the Paris air show every two years."

He added: "We would certainly consider any proposals about reorganising under a general European umbrella."

The French manufacturers' association, Gifas, is, however, certain to oppose the scheme, and its opposition may cause the Germans to go it alone and compete directly with either Farnborough or Paris in the near future.

The emerging German aerospace industry is determined to take a higher profile in Europe and the creation of its own show site is a priority.

A BDLL spokesman said: "We are convinced that the time has come to reorganise air shows on a European basis rather than have wasteful competition. We are looking for a suitable site in the East which would be a great attraction for potential customers from the Eastern Bloc."

"Our main concern is to ensure that German companies have a chance to show their products alongside the British and French, but there is no more room for a direct competitor with Paris or Farnborough. If it could be arranged under a European umbrella, however, the show could rotate between the three sites."

## UK-Soviet project for helicopter

By OUR AIR CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN and Russia are to work together to produce and market a new passenger helicopter which, it is believed, could be a world-beater by the end of the century.

Rolls-Royce yesterday signed an agreement at the Farnborough air show to provide the engines for a 14-seat helicopter designed by the Soviet Union's Kamov Design Bureau. The two companies are to form a joint marketing team to sell the helicopter to the East and the West at a time when demand for helicopters is expected to face a sharp increase.

At least 200 are expected to be sold to the West for use on oil rig work and as flying ambulances, rescue aircraft and passenger carriers, with many more being bought in the East. Rolls-Royce will initially supply five RTM322 engines, used on the new Anglo-Italian EH101 helicopter, for development flying in the new aircraft, known as the Ka-62R. The first flight is planned for late 1993, with full certification for use through-

out Europe planned for mid-1995. The RTM engines would be fitted to versions of the Ka-62R that would be exported, while aircraft for the Soviet Union and Eastern European countries would be powered by a Russian-built engine.

The Ka-62R is designed to carry its 14 passengers more than 373 miles at speeds of about 170 mph. Sir Ralph Robins, managing director of Rolls-Royce, said that the agreement was extremely important and would lead to further co-operation with Russia.

Meanwhile, Britain's Hotel space plane project, virtually grounded through lack of government cash two years ago, could be revived after an Anglo-Soviet joint study programme announced yesterday. The six-month study will try to find out whether it is possible to launch a new, interim Hotel from a "piggy-back" position on top of the Soviet Antonov AN-225 transport plane, the world's largest aircraft.

## Young Vic raises cash to avert closure

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

ACTORS, audiences, local businesses and residents have helped save the Young Vic Theatre, south London, from closure. A benefit performance held last Sunday of Arthur Miller's *The Man Who Had All The Luck* raised the remainder of the £100,000 needed to keep the theatre open.

The management needed the money for rewiring and other work to meet fire safety requirements so that a new theatre licence could be granted. The theatre was given until the end of the month to raise the money and get work under way. The new fire escape, donated by a welding company, has already been erected this week.

"Donations have ranged from widows' mites to an anonymous draft of £25,000," David Thacker, the theatre's artistic director, said. "It has been a wonderful indication of the point of the theatre - that it is for everyone, the doctor, the lawyer, the plumber."

The second phase of the appeal, to raise £250,000 for the restoration of the theatre by November 4, was launched yesterday with a contribution of £25,000 from the Equity Trust Fund, set up by the actors' union in March.



A limited edition lithograph based on a water-colour sketch by the Prince of Wales

## Critical praise for the prince

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE painter Arthur George Carrick missed the preview of his first British one-man exhibition in Salisbury yesterday because of a broken arm, and so did not hear highly encouraging noises from more experienced artists. They all, of course, knew the painter's real identity.

The 63 paintings and three lithographs, the product of four years of snatched moments on overseas tours and long holidays at Balmoral, were done by the Prince of Wales. They have gone on display to aid the Salisbury cathedral spire restoration fund, of which he is president. Using a pseudonym composed of two of his christian

names and one of his earldoms to avoid any suggestion of favouritism when submitting work for the 1987 Royal Academy summer exhibition, the prince is now open about his artistic career, which he describes in the catalogue as "one of the most relaxing and therapeutic exercises I know".

He is, as ever, self-effacing. "I am not exhibiting my sketches because I am under the delusion they represent great art or burgeoning talent. They represent my particular form of photographic album, and as such mean a great deal to me."

Charles Bartlett, president of the Royal Watercolour Society, said yesterday that

the prince was a sensitive artist. He suggested that the prince could tackle paintings in a larger scale than the postcard size to which he largely restricts himself.

Some of the paintings, he said, had an unfinished look (the prince says that he is often dragged away by his staff) but his only serious criticism was that the Italian scenes, many of them executed in the past few months, had been painted with an English eye.

None of the paintings, signed simply "C", is for sale, but three limited-edition lithographs, including a striking one of Windsor Castle just before a thunderstorm, are being offered at £2,600 a print.

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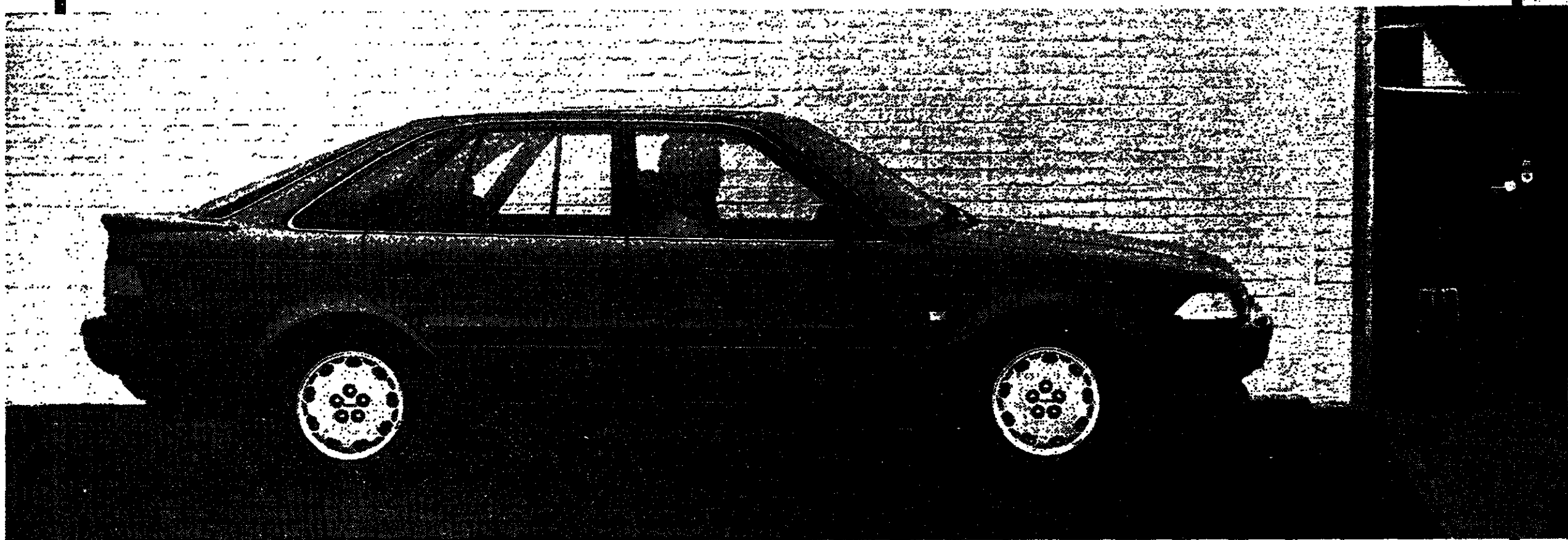
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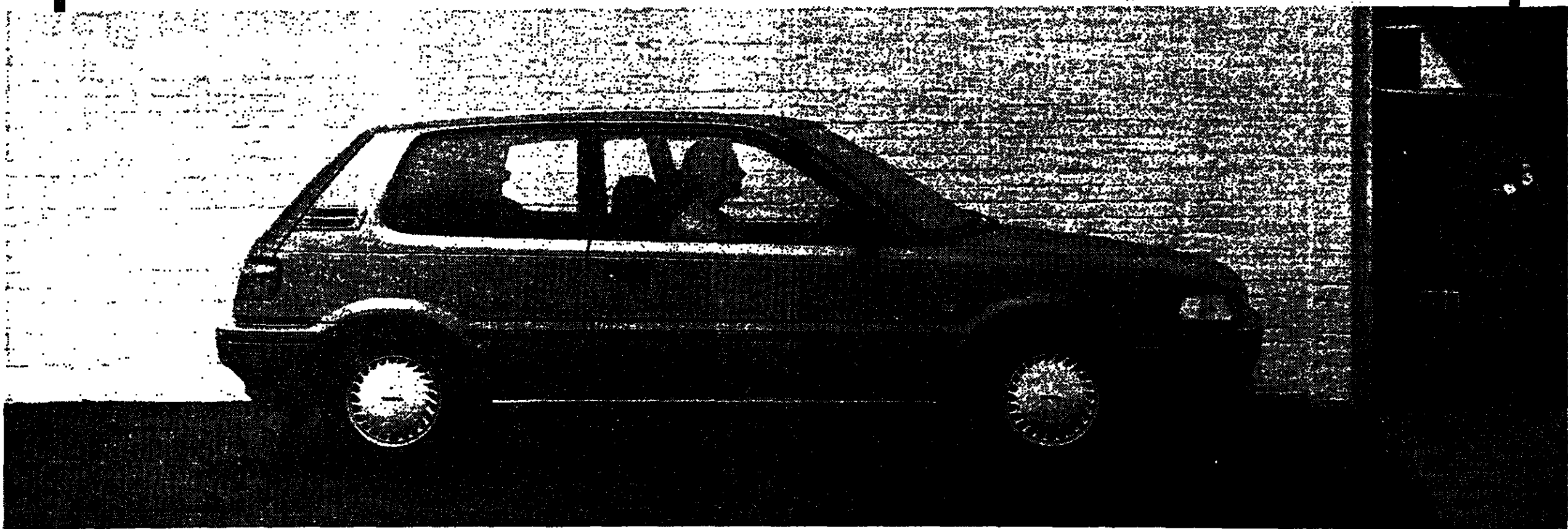
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# Estuary development threatens millions of birds, RSPB says



By MICHAEL MCCARTHY  
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

MILLIONS of internationally significant wading birds and wildfowl are at risk from damaging developments on Britain's estuaries, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said yesterday. Britain is failing in its responsibility to care for an international wildlife heritage, the society said.

Launching a campaign for a national protection strategy, the society said that of 123 major estuaries that it had surveyed (80 per cent of the total), 80 were under some degree of threat and 30 were in imminent danger of sustaining permanent damage from port and industrial expansion, new marinas, tidal barrages, land reclamation, pollution, recreational activities and even anglers digging for bait. The Nature Conservancy Council said that the findings were optimistic and the threat was far greater.

One and a half million wading birds and half a million wildfowl use the estuaries each year as vital links on migration routes from the Arctic to the southern hemisphere, along what is known as the "East Atlantic

Flyway". Ian Prest, director general of the society, said: "Our estuaries are one of the most important wildlife habitats in the British Isles, yet are often seen as wasteland and therefore subject to exploitation."

Huge numbers of waders, such as knot, dunlin, redshank and sanderling, converge on the coast in spring and autumn on their way to and from nesting sites as far apart as Canada and Siberia, while great flocks of wildfowl, such as barnacle and brent geese and pintail, used the estuaries as winter feeding grounds.

Mr Prest said that development proposals could mean the loss of a third of these birds, which would be unable to find alternative roosting and feeding grounds if driven away.

The society said 49 estuaries were threatened by recreational pressure, 33 by marinas, 29 by pollution, 29 by proposed land reclamation, 22 by barrages, 17 by bait-digging, 17 by industry, 15 by cockle fishing, 14 by port expansion, eight by sand removal, eight by wildfowling and three by fish farming.

Areas on the danger list included the Thames and related estuaries, where a marina, housing plans, an airport, dock expansion, waste tip-

ping and pollution threaten more than 177,000 wildfowl and waders; the Wash, where industrial development, pollution, an airport and oil refining threaten 260,000 birds; the Mersey, where a proposed tidal barrage and airport extension threaten an internationally important population of about 60,000 birds; and the Dee, in Wales, where 105,000 wildfowl and waders are threatened by waste tipping, port expansion, roads and recreation.

Publishing a report *Turning the tide - a future for estuaries*, the society called for a campaign of government action, based on an integrated national coastal strategy to bring together all the interests concerned. Philip Rothwell, the society's coastal policy officer, said that 33 government departments and related bodies had responsibilities in estuaries, without including local authorities. "The scope for confusion and duplication is obvious," he said.

All developments involving habitat loss in important areas should stop, Mr Rothwell said. All estuaries of special value to wildlife should be given immediate protection by law; local authorities should be given

powers to control activities on the shore and water which threatened wildlife; and the government should set an example by giving active support to international measures for protection, such as the European Community birds directive.

"Birds using our estuaries are an international wildlife heritage which the government has an international responsibility to protect. They are now under major threat," Mr Rothwell said.

Art Lance, the society's head of conservation, said that one of the main problems was people's perception of estuaries as smelly, stinking mud. "Mud is seen as an unsightly mess that needs to be covered up," Dr Lance said.

"A large part of society sees it merely as a wasteland just waiting to be put to some productive use. In fact it is a bonanza for wildlife in terms of food."

John Gummer, the agriculture minister, has accused Friends of the Earth of scaremongering over the level of radiation discharges from the Sellafield nuclear plant in west Cumbria (Ronald Faux writes).

A recent survey by the environmental organisation claimed that

the rivers Lune and Wyre near Lancaster were dangerously contaminated and that radiation in the estuaries was higher than permitted safety levels. Mr Gummer said that data in the survey was "neither appropriate nor responsible".

In a letter to the organisation, Mr Gummer wrote: "You have tried to paint the blackest possible picture from the figures which you have collected, based on hypothetical examples which did not occur in practice." Mr Gummer said that rather than informing people, the environmental group had sought to scare them, to gather support for an anti-Sellafield platform. Friends of the Earth submitted the report to the agriculture ministry, asking that British Nuclear Fuels' licence to discharge radioactive waste into the Irish Sea be revoked. Mr Gummer said that in the Lune and Wyre or any other inter-tidal area in the UK, the department's work had shown radiation levels received by the public to be well below national or international dose limits. Mr Gummer said that Sellafield's discharge levels were less than one-twentieth of those at the end of the 1970s.

## Consumer body seeks protection for house buyers

By ROBIN YOUNG

BUYING a house is fraught with avoidable risks, according to the National Consumer Council (NCC). Launching a report being published today, Lady Wilson, the council chairman, said yesterday that many people buying a home ended up considerably out of pocket.

"When things go wrong, it can be difficult or impossible for the buyer to get compensation," she said. "It is essential that buyers can get accurate information about the property they are buying and the best advice about the right type of mortgage."

The report says that consumers have little chance of redress if they buy a house on the strength of a survey that fails to reveal defects. It says that buyers need a cheap, simple complaints system that removes the need for legal action. The arbitration scheme set up by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, is, the report says, little used and excludes surveys done for lenders.

The council argues that the scheme be made compulsory for all institutions members and extended to disputes over valuations by surveyors commissioned by lenders. The council regrets that the building societies ombudsman cannot investigate mortgage valuations, and suggests that the Council of Mortgage Lenders set up a scheme to deal with disputes over surveys by lenders' staff.

The council estimates that between £100 million and £200 million a year is lost by consumers who cash in endowment mortgages and take out new ones when moving house, instead of topping up the old policy.

In Edinburgh yesterday, it was claimed the "canny Scot" who borrows prudently had spared Scotland the level of mortgage arrears seen south of the Border. A press conference was being held to announce that more than half of Scotland's homes were now owned by their occupiers.

Malcolm Rifkind, the Scottish secretary, said: "The twin attainments of over 200,000 public-sector house sales and over 50 per cent owner occupation are significant milestones."

Mike Provan, chairman of the Scottish Housing Association, said high interest rates were not having the same effect in Scotland because of lower house prices and income multiples and lower borrowing. "In my view, the 'Canny Scot' borrows more prudently," he said.

House prices slipped again in August, the Halifax Building Society said yesterday. Its index recorded a further 0.4 per cent fall, putting prices 1.8 per cent down on a year ago.

Home Truths: Consumers' experiences of moving house in England and Wales (NCC, 20 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1W 0DH, £3.50)

## £3bn inner cities revival 'a recipe for confusion'

By SHEILA GUNN, POLITICAL REPORTER

THE government's £3 billion *Action for Cities* initiative is a recipe for confusion and overlap between agencies, a parliamentary watchdog said yesterday.

The Commons public accounts committee said that contacts between officials at the environment, trade and industry and employment departments running schemes for reviving the inner cities were too weak, whereas there were better contacts at local level. After an investigation into the network of economic, environment, employment and housing programmes, the committee accepted the government's lack of a centralised master plan.

The MPs added, however: "In view of the complexity of this subject and the scale of the expenditure, we are not convinced that there is sufficient liaison between departments at national level. We recommend that further consideration be given to strengthening these arrangements, particularly in relation to the introduction of new programmes and other developments affecting the inner cities."

The strategy was set up by Margaret Thatcher after the 1987 general election, with the emphasis on a partnership between central government, the private sector and voluntary bodies. The committee's report points to the dangers of trying to run schemes from Whitehall, rather than having them run by local authorities.

Michael Portillo is the latest minister to take over the inner-cities mantle. Since no single department has overall responsibility, a number of cabinet ministers are involved. Chris Patten, the environment secretary, is engaged in hard bargaining during the present public spending round with Norman Lamont, chief secretary to the Treasury, on future funds for urban regeneration.

Projects include city action teams, run by the environment department, 16 task forces, under the trade and industry department, 57 urban

programme authorities, urban development corporations and grants. The committee found a variety of arrangements for running 10,000 economic, environmental, housing and social projects under the annual £261 million urban programme shared between government departments and local authorities. Some "partnership" areas had been set up to tackle the worst problems.

"However, the formal committee structure in four of the [seven] partnership areas has broken down, as no annual meetings with ministers have been held since 1986," the report said. The MPs blamed the breakdown of the partnerships on the government's decision to bring in private firms rather than involve local councils, while the environment department said that many councils failed to meet deadlines for submitting inner-area programmes.

The committee, with the help of the National Audit Office, uncovered varying success in persuading entrepreneurs to revive inner-city areas. The grant cost per job in one project, for example, amounted to £19,300, compared with an average for all schemes of £4,000.

The environment department said that the schemes were judged not only on their individual merits, but also for their knock-on effect in raising confidence in an area. The committee said that enterprise zones had proved to be an expensive way of regenerating run-down areas, and asked the government to check on the new, simplified, planning laws in those areas to make sure the rights of the public were protected.

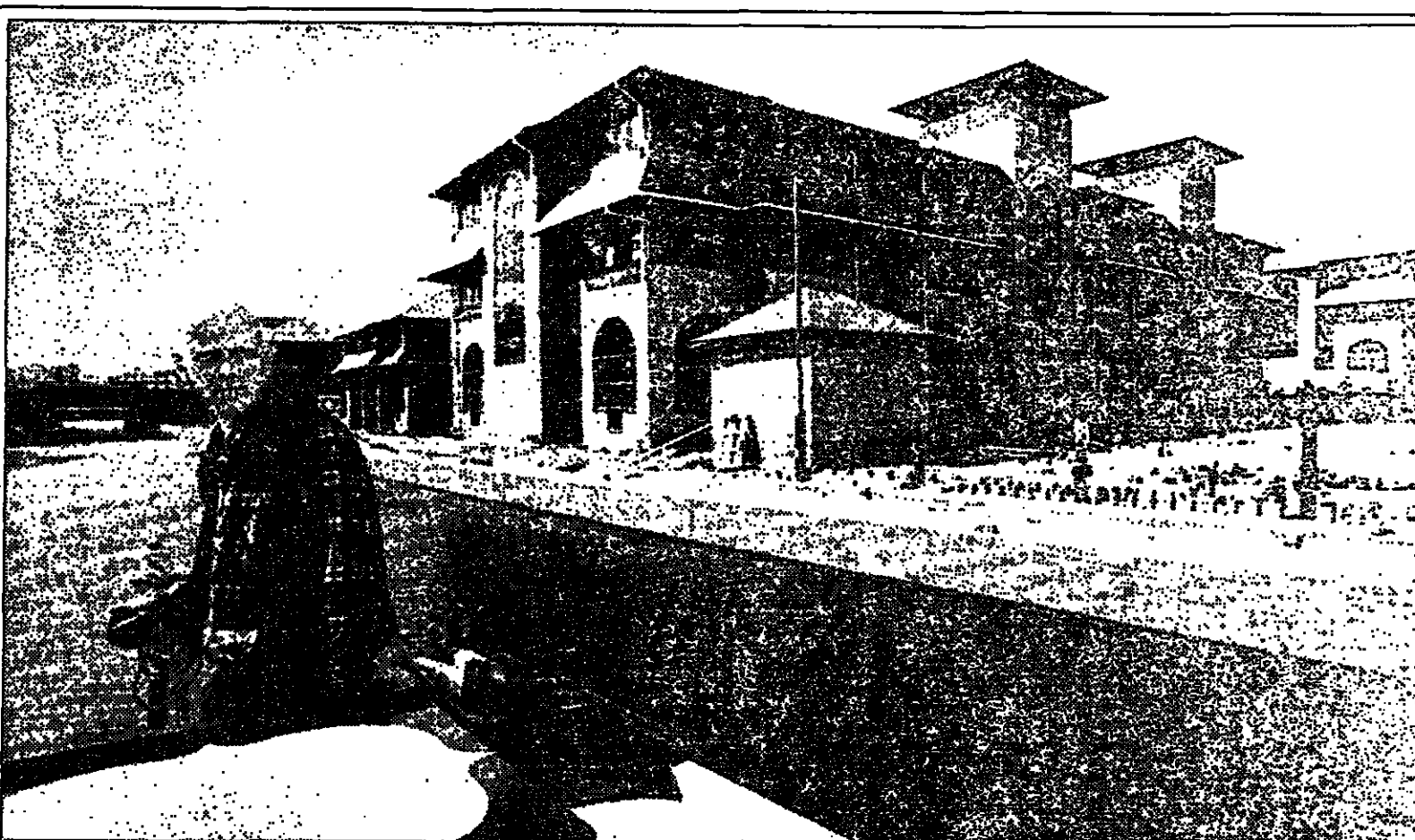
The committee also urged quicker sales of publicly owned, unused land in inner cities, as only about half of the 166,000 acres registered since 1981 has been sold. The Confederation of British Industry also wants to see a register of privately owned vacant land. Ministers said, however, that private owners could be expected to manage their own assets effectively.

More research was needed to discover the impact of the different programmes, the report said. "We do not underestimate the difficulties of more quantified work of this kind, but there are clear interactions between the different departmental programmes, favourable and unfavourable, and this means that evaluating individual programmes does not provide the level of positive assurance and accountability for the effective use of funds that work in the inner cities requires."

House of Commons committee of public accounts 33rd report: regenerating the inner cities (Stationery Office, £7.15)



Portillo: now responsible for the inner urban areas



One of Heartlands's major successes, the Rocky Lane development site, above; below, the derelict buildings before bulldozers moved in

## Vital private role puts heart in city

By CRAIG SETON

BIRMINGHAM Heartlands, Britain's first privately led urban development agency, is regarded as the embodiment of the prime minister's desire for private enterprise to seize a leading role in the regeneration of decaying inner cities.

The House of Commons public accounts committee said yesterday that its success should be closely monitored to provide lessons for urban renewal elsewhere.

Five large construction companies make up two thirds of the seats on the Heartlands' board, while Birmingham city council is the pioneering venture's minority partner. The ten-year task is to attract up to £1.3 billion of largely private-sector investment to restore and revitalise 2,300 acres of derelict land in east Birmingham.

Heartlands was launched in 1988 with the government's blessing but not the millions of pounds given to the Whitehall-sponsored urban development corporations. Staff were seconded from the five west Midlands-based building firms involved: Wimpey, Tarmac, Bryants, Douglas, and Galford, and others from the city council and a headquarters was set up along the banks of the Birmingham and Fazeley canal.

A development framework was created and working parties set up to involve central and local government agencies, landowners and local businesses. Company executives or leading councillors chair meetings to ensure bureaucracy and delays are kept to a minimum, and the local authority's partnership role helps to speed the planning process. Heartlands has received about £14 million in city grants, but the estimated £260 million committed so far is from the private sector.

Around 16,000 people live

in the area, regarded as one of the most deprived in the country. Many live in run-down municipal blocks that are being refurbished. A new urban village of homes to rent or buy has also been started.

Four of the five private partners in Heartlands are developing Waterlinks, a £150 million mixed canal-side development for business and light industry that will include public houses, restaurants and shops. A £300 million "star project" is also being proposed to raise the national profile of the area through high-quality offices, hotels and leisure developments.



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## 'FREE KUWAIT' MARCH

On the morning of 2nd August the independent, sovereign state of Kuwait was subjected to an unprovoked invasion by Iraqi forces.

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## JOIN US IN OPPOSING IRAQI AGGRESSION.

Assemble at the Kuwait Embassy, 46 Queens Gate, SW7 (nearest Underground stations: Gloucester Road or South Kensington) at 11 am on Sunday, 9th September.

Rally from 11 am to 12 noon. March from 12 noon to approximately 1.30 pm.

If you wish to help Kuwait by joining the 'Free Kuwait' Campaign Write to: Free Kuwait Campaign, 41 Porchester Terrace, London, W2

Issued on behalf of:

The Kuwaiti Community in the U.K. and Ireland Supported by: British Friends of Kuwait

## Priests urged to espouse green issues

By RUTH GLEDHILL  
RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS REPORTER

PRIESTS in the Roman Catholic Church in Britain were urged yesterday to espouse green issues and support conservationists.

Professor Ed Ehlh, author of *The Christian Green Heritage: World As Creation*, told more than 100 Catholic priests at the National Conference of Priests in Birmingham that religious institutions had largely ignored issues which "go to the heart of the human condition". "The theme that runs through green thinking is that a solution is spiritual, religious," he said. "The churches are doing very little. We are concerned about what Christians are doing and what they can do." He urged

the priests to live according to the demands of the "soil community". "Humanity is of the soil, is surrounded by the soil, returns to the soil."

"Although we must be patient," he said, "the trouble is we do not have much time. We Catholics have done precious little to bring our wonderful tradition to bear on this movement. Wherever conservationists protect a part of the soil community, the church, with its priests, should be at their side. Ecology without justice is not Christian ecology."

The Most Rev Derek Worlock, Archbishop of Liverpool, said he was concerned that emphasising the purity of the countryside could be to the detriment of cities. "I am a countryman who has spent a lot of time trying to convince the

people that the city with all its evils is part of God's kingdom."

Meanwhile, Malcolm Pitt, a former president of the National Union of Mineworkers in Kent, told delegates that issues highlighted in a papal document nearly 100 years ago were still relevant. He is organising a conference with the Catholic bishops to celebrate the centenary of the 1891 papal encyclical *Rerum novarum*, which examined industrial capitalism and the development of the proletariat.

"There is a perception that religion is often reduced to a Sunday cultic observance, rather than an inspiration for the totality of lives," Mr Pitt said. "We want to alert people to the fact that the Christian gospel has something to say about social issues."



# Unions offer Labour 'new agenda' for the economy

By TIM JONES AND NICHOLAS WOOD

THE next Labour government was offered an escape from wage-led inflationary pressures and pay bargaining disputes by union leaders yesterday in return for a prominent role in the discussion of Britain's economic prospects.

But the prospect of a "new agenda" in which the unions, employers and government would engage in a formal procedure as social partners to direct the nation's economic prospects before engaging on a "co-ordinated system of national wage bargaining" was immediately questioned by the CBI, which made clear that there should be no return to corporatism.

The Labour leadership also responded cautiously with John Smith, shadow chancellor, expressing doubts about the practicality of the proposals. He was not sure that employers would want to participate.

The CBI said: "If this means a return to the corporatist approach of the Seventies, it is an idea that is dead on its feet. If on the other hand it is about weighing up sensibly all the economic constraints which all those involved in negotiations should take into account, it needs to be examined."

Nevertheless, Mr Smith added that he thought the proposals a "good idea" and welcomed evident union support for a "partnership economy".

Labour is committed to "regular discussions between

government, employers, trade unions and others" about the country's economic prospects and the competing claims on national output. However, the package endorsed by the TUC at Blackpool yesterday against the background of warnings by union leaders that they would not countenance a formal pay policy goes much further.

As Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, made clear earlier this week, there will be no special favours for the unions under a future Labour government. If Mr Kinnock believes, however, that he can convincingly present a formal procedure for shaping wage settlements as being in a national, rather than sectional, interest he may decide to take it further.

The proposal is regarded with deep suspicion by some employers, who believe that it would push Britain further towards acceptance of the European social charter, giving workers far more say in the way in which their companies are run, a proposal that is being resisted fiercely by Margaret Thatcher and her cabinet colleagues.

Under the package, put forward by John Edmonds, of the GMB general union, and Alan Tiffin, general secretary of the Union of Communication Workers, important wage negotiations would be concentrated in the first three months of the year after a discussion between the three "partners". The procedure would be triggered by publication of the government's annual autumn statement on the economy. The Budget, which would come at the end of this highly compressed wage round, would take into account

the outcome of the bargaining round.

Both the union leaders believe that acceptance of the system would lead to pay settlements more consistent with national needs and act as a brake on the going rate being forced upwards by successive settlements raising the minimum acceptable figure.

Mr Edmonds made clear that he was not advocating an incomes policy or a pay norm, but offering a more rational, better informed and more co-ordinated system of determining pay rates.

He said: "Britain's negotiating set-up is a ramshackle mess, soaking up our resources, building up and then frustrating the expectations of union members and ensuring that the industrial relations focus never moves off the pay issue."

The new approach, he said, would allow unions and employers to concentrate more on training, job opportunities, improving quality and a national minimum wage which should be the key items on the union movement's new agenda.

This path would enable Britain to get out of the mess in which it found itself. "Bigger and better pay claims will not help. Our old agenda concentrates too much on the annual pay round. The new agenda should concentrate more on improving the long-term prospects of our members. We should talk a bit less about today's wage packet and a lot more about creating tomorrow's opportunities package."

Mr Tiffin also said that the proposal was not a stalking horse for wage restraint. It was, designed to end a free for all

where the strongest progressed and the weakest went to the wall.

Bill Jordan, president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, said that the defence of jobs had to be the most important priority. "In bargaining practice our aspirations all too frequently narrow down to pay. The truth is, in satisfying our members' immediate needs, we sell them short."

He condemned the government's handling of the economy and said that its decision to give managers the unfettered right to manage had led to a £20 billion trade deficit and proved to be "the costliest ideological experiment in this country's history".

Ron Todd, general secretary of the transport workers' union, said that he could support the proposals because they would not take unions down the road of an old-fashioned rigid incomes policy. "Every time such a policy has been tried, working people, the victims of inflation, have been made to pay the price of curbing it."

There was nothing wrong with an economic assessment which was common practice in some economically successful countries. "But our watchword should be information, not coercion."

The only dissent came from Tony Lennon, of the Broadcasting and Entertainment Trades Alliance, who said that the proposals amounted to the acceptance of a pay policy. "The disguise is so thin that the false nose and dark glasses fell off during the speeches by the mover and seconder."

Letters, page 11



Equal rights: Elizabeth Symons, First Division Civil Servants, addressing delegates

## Peace dividend priority for jobs

By OUR POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LEADERS of three big trade unions have demanded the lion's share of a "peace dividend" running into billions of pounds that they expect to flow from the ending of the cold war.

In a move that is likely to bring them into conflict with some Labour activists, they said yesterday that in the initial stages most of the savings should be ploughed back into protecting jobs and helping defence industries to find new products and markets rather than into higher welfare spending.

Their demands, voiced at a press conference in Blackpool, are almost certain to be endorsed by delegates in a debate to be held by the end of the week.

The TUC is poised to approve a resolution saying that in the long term savings should be used to increase social provision and improve the nation's infrastructure. However, initially, any peace dividend should be "directed towards assisting the process of change in the public sector and enabling defence-related industries to diversify".

With more than 40 resolutions demanding a reduction in defence spending on the agenda for the Labour conference later this month, the stage is set for argument over how the money should be spent.

At the press conference, the Transport and General Workers' Union, the Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union (MSF), and the Institution of Professionals, Managers and Scientists outlined their combined approach to safeguarding the million-and-a-half jobs estimated to depend on arms companies.

They endorsed Labour's plan for a defence diversification agency to help firms and workers to adapt to changed circumstances and argued that skilled research and development and design teams would be lost for ever without a co-ordinated response by the government, industry and the unions.

They predicted a difficult future for defence companies as arms markets dried up throughout Europe and as the Soviet Union sought to dump unwanted tanks on the British market.

The defence diversification agency had to be properly funded and empowered to make grants to companies to help them to develop new products. The union leaders also called for incentives for companies making changes and for a national retraining programme for defence workers.

Ken Gill, MSF general secretary, said that channelling defence savings into rebuilding industry was a priority. He added: "We think it is quite impossible to talk about improving pensions, services and schools unless there is the kind of manufacturing base that provides that kind of prosperity."

## Check on sexist language

THE words used by delegates at next year's TUC congress are to be monitored in an effort to stamp out their "persistent" use of discriminatory language (Peter Mullan writes).

The move was unanimously agreed after Ken Gill, chairman of the equal rights committee, gave an assurance that monitoring would not constitute thought control.

Mr Gill told the congress: "Sometimes our language patronises people who happen to be in the minority. It is demeaning to those on the receiving end."

All the speakers in a debate on equal rights supported a motion deploring the "persistent use of language at TUC conferences which is discriminatory, particularly on the grounds of race, gender and disability".

Judy Green, National Association of Probation Officers, said that trade unions were as guilty as anyone in perpetuating "stereotypical models". She said that terms such as "dear" or "the girls" or "the ladies" were demeaning and patronising.

Charles Kelly, Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians, told of the "cacophony of wolf whistles" greeting young women who walked past building sites. He said he hoped that the union's view on equal rights would gain wide support in time.

## Safety equipment demanded for BR

By KEVIN EASON

BRITISH Rail faces more train crashes unless the government authorises spending on automatic fail-safe equipment, Derrick Fullick, general secretary of the train drivers' union, Aslef, said last night.

Mr Fullick said that Robert Morgan, the driver jailed for manslaughter after the Purley train crash in which five died, was a scapegoat for years of government neglect.

If fail-safe devices of the sort common on continental railways had been fitted, then accidents such as those at Purley, Clapham Junction, Bellgrove and Hyde Junction would not have happened.

Mr Fullick told delegates that drivers suffering the stress of long hours and monotonous work would make mistakes and needed the support of fail-safe systems. "The real criminals are in Downing

Street and the Department of Transport". Their failure to provide money for automatic train protection was a human economy.

Roger Freeman, the junior transport minister, looked on from the public gallery as Mr Fullick asked: "Does anyone believe that a train driver with only a quarter-inch plate of glass between him and his passengers in front of his face and hundreds of passengers in his charge deliberately put his and their lives at risk?"

Mr Jimmy Knapp, National Union of Railwaymen general secretary, also condemned the government. The French planned a 3,750-mile network linked to the Channel tunnel for high-speed trains, but Cecil Parkinson, the transport secretary, could not "even get his act together" to build 70 miles of high-speed track from London to Dover, he said.

## Personal contracts

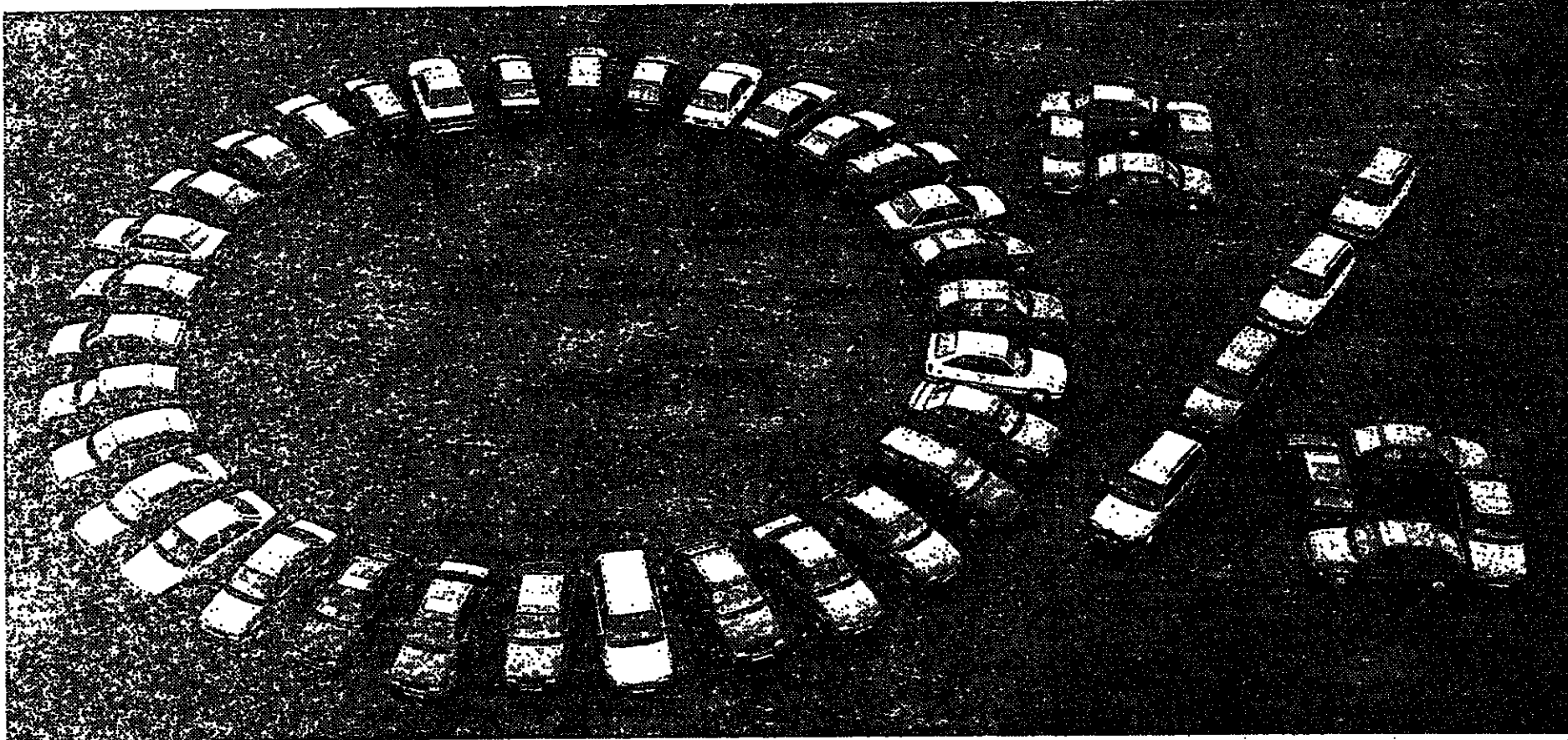
By PETER MULLIGAN

PERSONAL contracts are often introduced by employers to weaken and side step trade unions, the congress was told as it supported a motion calling on the TUC to investigate the issue. Bob Stevenson, Engineers' and Managers' Association, condemned the new fashion for contracts which, he said, often meant individuals coming under considerable pressure to sign. By introducing personal contracts employers could remove employees from the arena of collective bargaining and diminish their trade union activity.

He added: "We must ensure that this trend is not allowed to spread and we must be determined in our aim for the restoration of collective representation where this has been withdrawn."

Barry Ingham, Banking, Insurance and Finance Union, said that personal contracts put union members who signed in an unenviable position.

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## US agrees to talks with Cambodian government

By JAMES PRINGLE IN JAKARTA AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

THE United States is to begin direct talks with the Vietnamese-installed government in Cambodia, James Baker, the US Secretary of State, said yesterday. His announcement to the Senate foreign relations committee was made as doubts emerged over whether talks scheduled in Jakarta to pursue United Nations peace initiatives would begin.

Both Prince Norodom Sihanouk, leader of the Cambodian resistance coalition, and Hun Sen, prime minister of Cambodia, the principal leaders of the rival factions, have declared that they would not attend.

Mr Baker told the Senate committee that Washington would begin talks with Phnom Penh because he had been encouraged by the acceptance by the Hun Sen government and the other Cambodian factions of the UN plan to end the civil war in the country.

He also expressed optimism that the rival factions would achieve progress at their talks in Jakarta despite squabbling over who would attend the gathering.

In Jakarta, a frustrated Ali Alatas, the Indonesian foreign minister and host of the meeting, issued fresh appeals to Prince Sihanouk and Mr Hun Sen to attend the meeting, which diplomats here believe may be the country's last chance for peace.

The meeting, on which the hopes of the world community and the long-suffering

Cambodians rest, should have begun yesterday. But Mr Hun Sen has said he will not attend the talks unless Prince Sihanouk is present, while the former monarch, who is in Peking, is apparently holding himself above the fray.

Their attitudes have exasperated diplomats here representing the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, which last week endorsed a blueprint for peace. "Sihanouk apparently expects to swoop in later from a great height after the minutiae have been dealt with by others," said one Western diplomat here.

Mr Alatas, who earlier this week said that a crucial stage in the "long and arduous negotiating process" had been reached, yesterday consulted with Cambodian leaders. They include Son Sann, the former prime minister and leader of one of the non-communist resistance factions, Khieu Samphan, the Khmer Rouge representative, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, who is representing his father, Prince Sihanouk, and Hor Nam Hong, Phnom Penh's foreign affairs minister.

Diplomats say the talks will have significantly less impact unless the two principal Cambodian figures in the peace process participate in person.

But an Indonesian foreign ministry spokesman said last night there was no conclusion yet to pre-conference consultations, and that these would continue today while the ministry "worked on" getting Mr Hun Sen and Prince Sihanouk to attend. Diplomatic sources said Mr Alatas had personally issued fresh appeals to both.

"I pray to God, Mr Hun Sen comes," Mr Son Sann said. "It is our duty as Cambodians to be here, to work towards ending the war under which all Cambodians have suffered."

While describing the talks as "essential to Cambodia", Prince Ranariddh said that the coalition would be adequately represented by the leaders of the three factions and that Prince Sihanouk's presence was not essential.

Mr Hor said on arrival here yesterday that Mr Hun Sen would not attend unless Prince Sihanouk did.

The UN peace package foresees a UN role in administering Cambodia and monitoring a ceasefire in the run-up to general elections.

The price of failure that some see looming here could be disastrous. Keat Sokun, a senior official in Mr Son Sann's faction, said: "There are two possibilities in the event of failure. The first is that the Khmer Rouge are likely to intensify their military activity and win, taking over Cambodia. This could lead, secondly, to a new intervention by Vietnam, and this time it would swallow Cambodia."



Bridging the divide: South Korean delegates, right, shake hands with their North Korean colleagues at the opening of talks in Seoul yesterday

## Tourist nightmare comes true in a frightened city

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN NEW YORK

VISITORS were cutting short their visits to New York yesterday after the brutal mugging of a tourist family that brought a fresh bout of fear and outrage over the extraordinary violence sweeping the city in recent months.

Dozens of tourists are robbed every day in New York and some six citizens are murdered, but the death of Brian Watkins, aged 22, a tennis teacher from Utah, assembled all the ingredients of every tourist's nightmare trip to the mean streets of Manhattan.

Watkins, his mother, father and brother were waiting for a subway train in the busy downtown theatre district, after spending the day at the US Open tennis tournament. A gang of knife-wielding youths surrounded them and stole the father's wallet.

When they punched Karen Watkins, Brian and his brother went to her defence. He was stabbed in the chest, but chased his killer up three flights of steps before dying.

The gang, according to police, ran on to the Roseland dance hall, where they spent the evening. They had robbed the Watkins family because they needed the entrance fees, police said. Eight black and

Hispanic youths were charged yesterday with murder, as the city succumbed to another media-driven paroxysm of outrage and racial name-calling.

According to police, Gary Morales, the 18-year-old alleged to have wielded the "butterfly" flick knife, registered his defence: "The tourist ran into my knife."

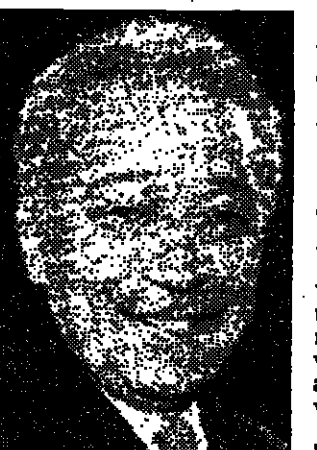
The *New York Times*, which called the attack "the city's worst nightmare come true", reported that the youths belonged to a gang known as FTS. To join, a candidate must first commit an act of violent robbery.

As black leaders complained of the "hypocrisy" with which white America treats crimes against middle-class victims, Mayor David Dinkins and the city's police chief, both black, vowed once again to stem the tide of random violence that has begun in recent months to alarm even hardened native New Yorkers. Six children have been killed in the crossfire of gun battles in the past eight weeks.

While the subway gang was being arrested, the city buried a young prosecutor who was killed by a stray bullet outside a courthouse in the Bronx. Voicing a common opinion, the *Daily News* said yesterday: "There is an entire generation out there that feeds on viciousness, that has no concept of morality. To these punks, crime is a hobby. Violence is a way of life."

For Jimmy Breslin, the veteran chronicler of the city, the killing of Brian Watkins marked a watershed. The city would never be the same again, he said. "Dies the victim, dies the city."

The fear of the tourist business is that the publicity over the Watkins case will further deter visitors at a time



Dinkins: Plea to media not to sensationalise

when New York's economy is slipping into recession. The worldwide publicity over the rape of the woman jogger in Central Park last year is estimated to have cost the city millions of tourist dollars. A spokesman for the Better New York association said the Watkins murder "will set the tourist business back five years".

Mr Dinkins, who came under fire in the press yesterday for showing insufficient outrage, pleaded with the press to avoid dramatising the case.

As tourists vowed to television cameras that they would never return to New York, city officials advised visitors to stay in groups and avoid quiet streets at night. But sightseers with a taste for the macabre queued up to view the blood-stained passage in the 57th Street station where Brian Watkins collapsed after his chase.

Some hotels have adopted novel methods of ensuring guests' safety, providing escorted tours of the city. For a fee, a trained jogger-in-residence accompanies runners into the wilds of Central Park.

The killing could not have come at a worse time for the New York subway system. It had just launched a campaign to lure timid passengers back on the rails under the slogan: "We're coming back so you come back."

## North Korea plays for time on unity

FROM SIMON WARNER IN SEOUL

NORTH Korea stopped short of derailing the current round of talks here on reunification with the South so that the dialogue could continue in Pyongyang next month, when any breakthrough would provide a propaganda coup on its home ground.

The North Korean delegates appeared to be interested only in preventing an agreement being reached during their four-day visit to Seoul, the first time such a meeting has taken place.

At the first round of talks yesterday, the prime ministers of North and South Korea delivered position papers which will form the basis for discussions today. Both sides issued sweeping statements calling for an easing of tensions and agreement on political and military matters that covered little new ground.

North Korea, however, made a patently unacceptable demand on the South to free people jailed for making unauthorised trips to Pyongyang. The North's obstructionist tactics were not unexpected, and the South was mostly intent on getting through the two encounters while preserving the mood for dialogue as a stepping stone towards a summit.

Yon Hyoung Muk, prime minister of North Korea, also called on the South to remove all foreign troops from Korean soil and agree to ban nuclear

weapons on the peninsula, arguing that disarmament must precede confidence-building measures.

Kang Young Hoon, the prime minister of the South, said Seoul preferred measures in the reverse order: first, building political confidence; second, building military confidence; and then, arms control and disarmament. The two Koreas have 1.5 million men under arms, with 43,000 US troops in the South.

The North called on the South to abolish its national security law, which defines North Korea as an enemy. The legislation is so sweeping that people can be jailed for simply planning a trip to Pyongyang. It also objected to an attempt by Seoul to join the United Nations on its own.

The South set out proposals for establishing railway, road, air and sea links and postal communications, all severed since the Korean war, and for ending the military build-up in the demilitarised zone that divides the two countries on the 38th parallel. But the proposal that the South hopes will go the furthest towards strengthening links with the North and luring it out of its stalinist isolation was for economic co-operation.

While little of substance is expected from the four-day visit, Seoul sees it as historic, simply because it is taking place.

## German MP held on spy charges

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN EAST BERLIN

A LEADING Christian Democratic Union deputy was arrested yesterday on suspicion of having spied for East Germany, the West German public prosecutor's office announced.

Gerd Löffler, the CDU's energy spokesman and a prominent Hamburg industrialist, has been accused by a former state security ministry officer of having passed information about nuclear and aeronautical research in Schleswig-Holstein to the East Germans.

The investigation is the first against a public figure to ensue from the spate of former agents handing information to the West Germans in the hope of trading secrets for freedom from prosecution.

The public prosecutor said Herr Löffler's flat had been searched early yesterday. The immunity clause, which protects West German MPs from damaging publicity until charges are considered sound, has been lifted.

As energy spokesman, Herr Löffler had access to confidential details of the debate on nuclear energy which split the CDU in the mid-1980s. He is also a board member of the Hamburg-based Systemtechnik company, which partnered an aeronautical and space research enterprise and is thought to have been privy to classified government research programmes.

The revelation has unnerved the CDU, as it comes after hints by Markus Wolf, the former head of the East German espionage service, that he had agents in top political circles, including a secretary of state whose job was to influence West German policy. It has also awakened fears of political scandal on the lines of the Guillaume affair, in which Günter Guillaume, an East German spy, penetrated the office of Willy Brandt when he was chancellor in the 1970s.

A West German Nato official was also arrested yesterday on suspicion of spying. The man, identified only as Herbert K., is alleged to have passed documents to the Stasi secret police since 1968. Last week a foreign ministry official and four other West Germans were arrested on spying charges.

Bonn has confirmed that it plans an amnesty for East German spies, as long as there are no criminal charges outstanding against them.

## Brazil police accused of child torture

Rio de Janeiro - Hundreds of children are being murdered and tortured in Brazil by death squads, often run by the police themselves, according to a report by Amnesty International (Louise Byrne writes). The report says Brazilian human rights organisations now believe at least one child a day is killed.

It cites the case of 13-year-old Leandro Cardoso da Silva - the victim of a macabre game of Russian roulette. After being picked up by military police in Rio on suspicion of breaking into a shop, Leandro and two friends were driven to waste ground where the game began. His two friends, aged nine and 15, survived, but Leandro's body was later dumped by a hotel.

Non-stop Paris - For the first time in the city's history, cars are to be banned from parking, or even stopping, along a 17-mile stretch of the main Parisian boulevards running north-south and east-west, to ease traffic jams. (AFP)

Drugs bust - Tokyo - Police have arrested two Britons, Allan John Ferris, aged 27, from Kowloon, Hong Kong, and Charles Jonathan Tapsell, aged 26, of unknown address, for allegedly smuggling marijuana into Japan. (AP)

Airport charges - Rome - The former chief of Fiumicino airport and three police officers are to stand trial on charges of negligence over a 1985 Palestinian guerrilla attack which killed 16 people. They are accused of failing to increase security at the airport despite warnings of planned attacks. (Reuters)

Ordered out - Belgrade - Four members of the Helsinki Federation monitoring the human rights situation in the Kosovo region have been arrested and served with expulsion orders.

## Army fails to deter Bhutto

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN LAHORE

PAKISTAN'S military-backed caretaker government, a month old today, is intensifying its witch hunt of political allies of Benazir Bhutto, the deposed prime minister, to save its floundering strategy for keeping her out of power.

The tactics of the army and the acting government are taking on an element of farce, so blatant is the attempt to destroy the doggedly determined Miss Bhutto as a political force. The government, widely regarded as inept and discredited, has spent its entire time in power in vain attempts to turn opinion decisively against Miss Bhutto.

Unless she is blocked by rigged elections or banned from standing, there seems every chance that Miss

Bhutto's Pakistan People's party will emerge as the biggest single group in the poll due on October 24, although she would almost certainly fall far short of an outright majority. Attempts by the battery of feuding opposition parties to form electoral alliances are proving elusive, although efforts continue.

With less than seven weeks to election day, there is no sign that Miss Bhutto's political credibility has suffered unduly from the onslaught. She draws large and enthusiastic crowds and her party, although it has been shaken by some high-level defections, has held together surprisingly well. Her declining popularity in Sind, her home province, appears to have been restored, judging by

the turn-out wherever she speaks.

There are three main contenders among opposition parties for the post of prime minister: Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, the present acting prime minister; Nawaz Sharif, former chief minister of Punjab and head of the powerful Muslim League; and Mohammad Khan Junejo, a former prime minister ousted by the army in 1988.

The military is working to get opposition groups to present the appearance of unity for electoral purposes. The United States, aware of the army's frustration at its failure to discredit Miss Bhutto, has said its aid programme could be jeopardised if the military takes over.

## Sale of Zulu war relics raises alarm

FROM GAVIN BELL IN JOHANNESBURG

CUSTODIANS of South Africa's military heritage are angry over what they regard as the looting of a historic battlefield in Natal where British soldiers helped turn the tide of the Zulu War in the 19th century by routing a much bigger attacking force.

The National Monuments Council, alerted by a British military historian, is trying to recover eight large containers of relics removed from the site of the battle of Kambula. The artefacts are being offered for sale in Britain and the United States by a Texan entrepreneur.

The alarm was raised by Ian Knight, of Shoreham in Sussex, who received a catalogue offering items such as the remnants of an Enfield musket for \$180 (£100) and two 13th Light Infantry collar badges for \$750. Also for sale are Zulu spearheads and arm-rings, all accompanied by a "certificate of authenticity".

Gregory Marcinek, of Bedford, Texas, claims in the catalogue that the South

African authorities were notified before excavations began in 1988 and informed before export. He refers to George Chadwick, a former member of the monuments council and former chairman of its British war graves committee.

However, the council and Mr Chadwick both strenuously deny having approved removal of the artefacts, and solicitors are seeking their return, and a retraction of Mr Marcinek's claims.

George Hofmeyr, the council director, said yesterday: "The museums in Natal, our council and the KwaZulu monuments council are all up in arms against him (Mr Marcinek). Our lawyers wrote to him a month ago, but so far we have had no response. Obviously we will do all we can to have the material returned, and to prevent any further vandalism of our battlefields."

Mr Hofmeyr said excavations of historic sites are permitted only under stringent conditions, requiring a qualified archaeologist to work with the council, and separate permits for exploration and export. "Kambula

battlefield is in itself a national monument, so it is a double transgression."

Failure to comply with the regulations is punishable by two years' imprisonment and a £2,000 fine. However, it is difficult to supervise such sites, since most of them lie on privately owned farmland - as is the case at Kambula, near Vryheid in northern Natal.

Mr Marcinek says in the catalogue he conducted the dig over two years with the approval of the farmer (who now assures the council this was not the case), using farm labourers and metal detectors.

Mr Marcinek is also advertising for "adventurous companions", saying: "This year's itinerary includes the exploration and possible excavation of Intombi Drift, Hlobane, Fort Pine and the reopening of Kambula." Mr Hofmeyr is determined to prevent this.

The artefacts are from an engagement on March 29, 1879, when some 2,000 British soldiers repulsed an estimated 22,000 Zulu warriors. The Zulus lost about 2,000 and the British 29 men.

## LEARNING CURVE.

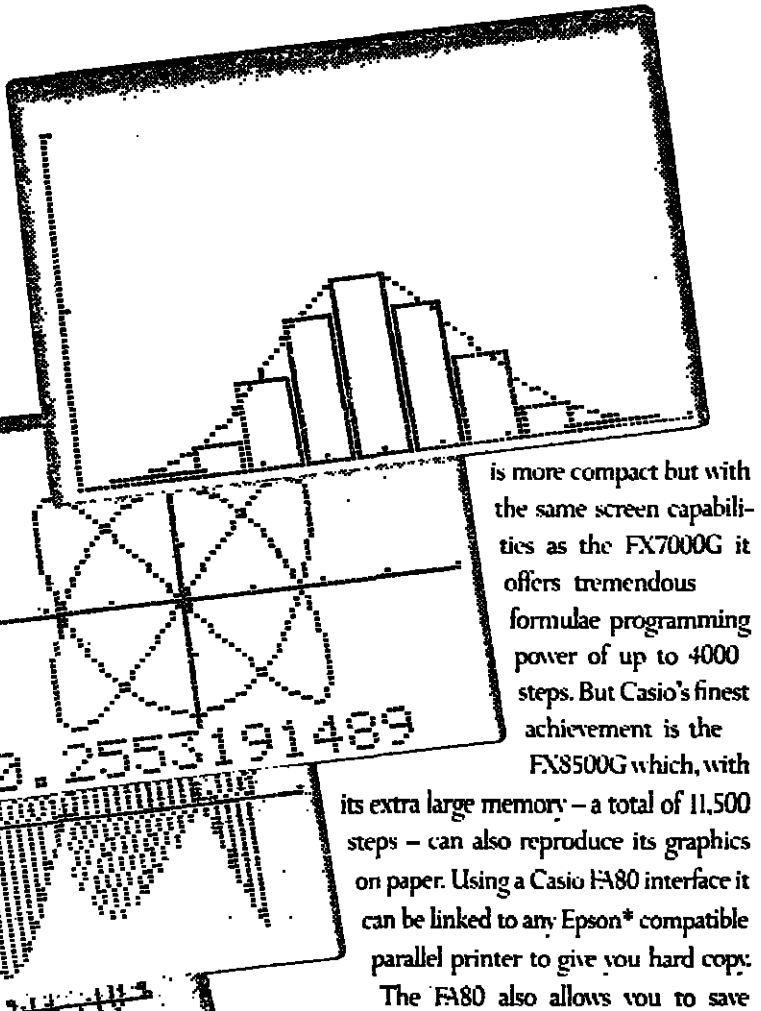
At first glance, the slimline styling and price tag of the Casio FX7000G suggest that it's a conventional calculator. In fact, it's a highly specialised problem-solver, designed with engineers, scientists and students in mind.

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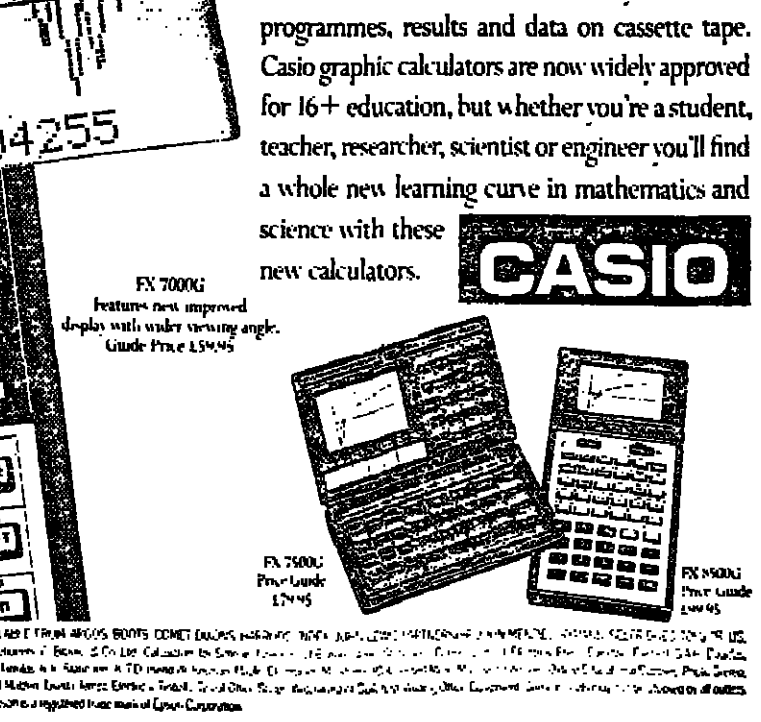
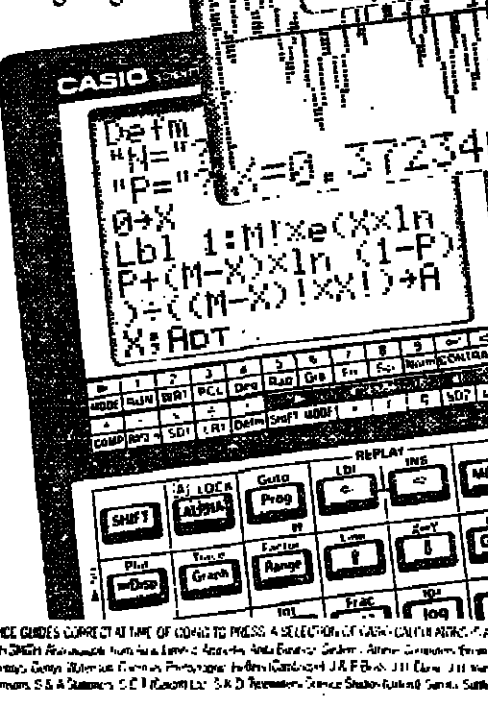
The FX7500G with its unique folding design



is more compact but with the same screen capabilities as the FX7000G it offers tremendous formulae programming power of up to 4000 steps. But Casio's finest achievement is the FX8500G which, with its extra large memory - a total of 11,500 steps - can also reproduce its graphics on paper. Using a Casio FA80 interface it can be linked to any Epson\* compatible parallel printer to give you hard copy.

The FA80 also allows you to save programmes, results and data on cassette tape. Casio graphic calculators are now widely approved for 16+ education, but whether you're a student, teacher, researcher, scientist or engineer you'll find a whole new learning curve in mathematics and science with these new calculators.

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## THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE

## Sheikhdom's identity would be lost without al-Sabahs at helm



Sheikh Jaber: suspended parliament in 1986

By PETER MANSFIELD

AS THE dynastic rulers of a tiny but fabulously wealthy state the Sabah family could expect to attract a measure of hostility and dislike. But what is indisputable is that those who denied their right to govern Kuwait effectively rejected its existence as an independent state. The al-Sabahs were and are Kuwait's *raison d'être*. President Saddam Hussein of Iraq knows this, which is why his first demand was for their removal.

The al-Sabahs belonged to the Utub clan of the Anazir tribe from the central Arabian plateau of Nejd, some of whom moved north and east in the 18th century to settle on the coast. In about 1730 the al-Sabahs and their Utub clan founded Kuwait city.

For two centuries the strategic maritime sheikhdom's independence was assured by the lack of any stabilising power in the region. Although Kuwait was nominally part of the Ottoman

Empire, the Kuwaitis persuaded the Turkish administrator in Basra to leave them to look after themselves.

When at the end of the 19th century the Ottoman Sultan made one of his rare moves to assert his authority, Mubarak "the Great" (1896-1915), founder of modern Kuwait, signed the Exclusive Agreement with Britain, accepting British protection in return for excluding all other powers.

The discovery of oil in 1938 and its speedy development after the second world war transformed both Kuwait's situation and the role of the al-Sabahs. The swelling revenues gave them vastly increased economic, and therefore, political power.

The new emir, Abdullah Salem (1950-1965), insisted that the new wealth should be used to create a comprehensive welfare state with equal education for both sexes, but when in 1961, the ending of the Exclusive Agreement with Britain

gave Kuwait full independence, he took steps to turn Kuwait into a constitutional monarchy with an elected parliament.

In parliament, opposition ranged from a small but influential group of pan-Arab nationalists to more conservative Kuwaiti nationalists who pressed the government for Kuwaiti control over its oil industry.

In 1976 Sheikh Jaber Ahmad al-Sabah, who was then prime minister and crown prince, decided the parliamentary system had become unworkable and asked the emir for its suspension. But four years after he succeeded as emir in 1977, he restored parliament only to suspend it again in 1986 when the Gulf war was at its height and Kuwait was threatened.

The ending of the war revived pressure for full restoration of the constitution. Sheikh Jaber half-reluctantly agreed only last June to partial restoration with election for a provisional parliament, two-

thirds elected and one-third appointed. The former deputies insisted that only the restoration of the independence constitution would satisfy them.

The opposition to the Sabah was of two kinds. There were prominent figures both inside and outside parliament who wished to reduce the power of the Sabahs and were highly critical of some of its members. Since the Iraqi invasion we can confidently describe this as the "loyal" opposition. There was also an opposition that was not loyal — mostly among the 30 per cent Shia Muslim minority; but they were not pro-President Saddam; if anything, they favoured his arch-enemy, Ayatollah Khomeini.

The Palestinians formed the largest and longest established community among the non-Kuwaiti minority. They had no wish to overthrow the government but they did want greater security and a mistake was surely made in not

allowing them a greater say in local government affairs.

The al-Sabahs underestimated the Iraqi threat as much as they overestimated the amount of effective support they could expect from their fellow-Arabs. The Kuwaitis knew they were risking President Saddam's wrath by exceeding their Opec output quota during the past few months. Some members of the cabinet dismissed Iraqi threats as sabre-rattling, while others thought some compromise would be necessary.

The al-Sabahs have been genuinely outraged by the attitude of Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian Liberation Organisation leader, and the many Palestinians who condoned the invasion and are now cheering for President Saddam. The bitter truth is that no amount of clarity towards the Palestinians would have brought lasting gratitude. The 800,000 Kuwaitis, who controlled 10 per cent of the world's oil, would

always have been considered too spoiled by God and history.

That changes in Arabia will be profound is a foregone conclusion. But what are the chances of a return to the *status quo ante* in Kuwait, and Sheikh Jaber returning to his palace? This would require either an astonishing, although not impossible, volte-face by President Saddam, or his overthrow. The al-Sabahs would return and try to pick up the pieces.

The system would also have to be changed to make Kuwait more a monarchy of the 20th century than of the 18th century. On the other hand, a republic in which the al-Sabahs had no place, would hardly survive because the basis of Kuwait's identity would be lost. That is their strongest asset.

Peter Mansfield is a Middle East specialist and author of Kuwait: Vanguard of the Gulf and The Arabs

## Aziz mission to sway Moscow before summit looks doomed

FROM MARY DEJEVSKY IN MOSCOW

TARIQ Aziz, the Iraqi foreign minister, arrived unexpectedly in Moscow yesterday in what was seen as a last-minute attempt to sway Soviet leaders before the Helsinki mini-summit on Sunday.

The visit was believed to be an Iraqi initiative. With Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, in Japan, Mr Aziz's only likely purpose was to bring a message from President Saddam Hussein. Moscow has at times cast itself as a potential mediator in the Gulf conflict and has maintained constant contact with Baghdad through diplomatic channels, but Soviet hopes that mediation could succeed seemed to fade with the failure of talks in Jordan last week between Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary-General, and Mr Aziz.

Reporting the visit of Mr Aziz, Tass said: "Until now, no political or diplomatic contacts between Moscow and Baghdad have produced the desired result." An early

indication that Mr Aziz's latest mission is in vain came with the publication of an unprecedented joint statement by the Soviet and Japanese foreign ministers, condemning Iraq's aggression in Kuwait. Moscow yesterday offered no further official indication of its approach to this weekend's Gorbachev-Bush meeting, but Soviet commentators continued to emphasise the closeness of the Soviet and American positions.

Mr Gorbachev received Robert Dole, the senator who is leading a US congressional delegation to Moscow, and Tass gave prominence to a statement by James Baker, the US Secretary of State, to the effect that America was gratified by the Soviet response to the confrontation. There were also hints that Moscow could be looking for economic incentives to maintain its stance on Iraq. Soviet officials have stressed the losses the country will suffer from halting trade with Iraq. Soon after Moscow issued its initial condemnation of Iraq, the US announced it was lifting quotas on Soviet trade representatives in America, and it was yesterday reported that Washington is preparing a package for the Soviet Union that could be worth several million dollars in farm credits.

Stanislav Kondrashov, a respected newspaper commentator, said that economic factors could be the main reason why Moscow is reluctant to withdraw its estimated 6,500 economic and military specialists from Iraq, which owes the Soviet Union \$6 billion (\$2.1 billion). Baghdad might use the pretext of broken contracts to refuse to pay this back, he said.

● TOKYO: Japan, which has been slow to respond to events in the Gulf, said yesterday it was considering whether to send unarmed troops to the region, and later issued a rare joint statement with the Soviet Union condemning Iraq's invasion (Joe Joseph writes).

In a joint communiqué, the first in more than 50 years on a non-bilateral issue, Edward Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister who is visiting Tokyo, and Taro Nakayama, his Japanese counterpart, said: "The two countries share the recognition that Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and its annexation by Iraq contradict basic principles of international law and the United Nations Charter." The statement added that collective efforts to solve such regional strife would help in the search for a new international order in the post-Cold War era. The communiqué stopped short of outlining specific joint action.

Earlier, Misoji Sakamoto, chief cabinet secretary, said that the government was "considering whether and to what extent the self-defence forces should play a role in achieving peace in the Gulf". Responding to Washington's request for help, Japan yesterday loaded a carrier in Nagoya with 800 four-wheel-drive cars and lorries and air conditioners, due for Saudi Arabia.

Leading article, page 11

SAUDI ARABIA  
Fahd lifts curbs on women in workforce

FROM YOUSSEF IBRAHIM IN JEDDAH

IN A sweeping directive apparently intended to mobilize Saudi society for possible war with Iraq, King Fahd has ordered the expansion of the armed forces and has called for wider participation of women in the labour force.

In a directive received by the Council of Ministers, the king opened the way to all male university graduates to enrol in military training programmes immediately in all branches of the Saudi armed forces.

Until now, members of Saudi Arabia's 65,000-man volunteer armed forces have been carefully selected so as to strike a geographical and tribal balance among various segments of the Saudi population.

The new move falls short of establishing a call-up, which a number of officials here have already called for. But by abandoning the practice of tribal quotas, the royal edict expands vastly the size of the manpower pool from which the armed forces are drawn.

In his edict on women in the workplace, the official Saudi press agency said that the king ordered "all specialized government authorities to accept those women volunteers who present themselves to carry on duties in the areas of human services and medical services within the context of fully preserving Islamic and social values."

In traditional Islamic societies, public contact between the sexes is virtually non-existent. Women are free to take jobs serving other women, for example as gynaecologists or as teachers in girls' schools in the gender-segregated educational system.

But because Islamic tradition strongly promotes the notion that a woman's place is in the home, the vast majority of Saudi women have not made their presence felt in the labour market. Many of the jobs now available to women in Saudi Arabia are filled by foreigners. The immediate impact will be to encourage Saudi women to take these jobs. But over time it could lead to the employment of Saudi women in jobs that would put them in public contact with men, such as nursing in men's wards in hospitals or working as clerks in banks.

The directive would free more men for military service, but its principal aim appears to be to reduce the country's dependence on foreign workers. (NYT)



Calming influence: a Jordanian soldier using his belt to disperse Asian refugees feeding over food and water near Ruweisid camp

JORDAN

## Violence stalks refugees' aid scramble

FROM JUAN CARLOS GUMUCIO IN RUWEISHID

AFTER tent number 149 at the Ruweisid Bridge camp fell into Filipino hands following a brawl with a group of Pakistanis, Rolando Campos, a stocky car mechanic, made a victorious gesture of sharpening a tent stake with a stone.

It took just a few minutes for one of the other group to produce a short-bladed knife, made from an empty sardine can. Three Jordanian soldiers then appeared, waving leather belts and sent people into their tents to avert a confrontation. Later, inside the tent he shares with 13 other men and women, Mr Campos buried the stake. "I know they will try to get us out," he said. "But I am prepared for those wolves."

Violence in its most primitive form is brewing in the refugee camps that have sprung up in the rocky desert strip between the

Iraqi and Jordanian borders, where nearly 80,000 Asians who fled Kuwait are waiting to be repatriated. In an attempt to avoid friction, food and water are distributed separately to each community, but this does not always help. The shortage of supplies is such that theft and assault are common.

"The ingredients for disaster are here," Jalel Khawar, a Jordanian relief official, said, pointing to makeshift Filipino, Bangladeshi, Indian, Pakistani and Sri Lankan flags fluttering in the hot wind. "Unless they are taken home soon, desperation and cultural differences could turn this place into a battlefield."

On Tuesday, three Sri Lankans were injured when a group of Thai teenagers assaulted them as they carried water to their tents, doctors at the camp said. Religious

intolerance is also fuelling tension. Filipinos have been harassed by Muslims at the bigger Shalaan One camp, 21 miles east of Ruweisid, because of the sleeveless blouses they wear. "We are so afraid that we do not go out any more," said Anita Castelo, aged 34, a bank clerk from Manila. Her husband says he too has sharpened a tent stake.

● AMMAN: Werner Kaspar, head of the International Committee of the Red Cross delegation in Jordan, yesterday expressed strong concern about conditions in the two border camps (Andrew McEwen writes). "We think the situation has become very, very serious," he said. The delegation has set up tanks with adequate water supplies, but there are distribution difficulties. "If a pump breaks down it could have dramatic

consequences." He said five tanks sent by Oxfam, each capable of holding 45,000 litres, were due to arrive yesterday.

Work started at the beginning of the week on a relief camp at Azraq, halfway between the border post at Ruweisid and Amman. "A tent city for 30,000 people with electricity and water should be ready by Monday and will relieve some of the pressure," Mr Kaspar said. Britain contributed £500,000 to the Red Cross effort last month, and gave 25,000 blankets and 2½ tonnes of medicines on Tuesday, plus contributing £770,000 towards a fund of 5.5m euros given by the EC.

● GENEVA: United Nations agencies have raised about \$20 million for refugee relief, a spokesman for the UN Disaster Relief Organisation, which is co-ordinating the effort, said yesterday (Alan McGregor writes).

However, bureaucratic in-fighting among the UN and other Geneva-based relief organisations is hampering a united effort. The International Committee of the Red Cross and the League of Red Cross Societies are doing their own fund-raising, as is the International Organisation for Migration, which has raised \$11 million in government grants from Norway, Canada, Switzerland and Australia. A spokesman said Britain "has asked for instructions as to where to send money", so a contribution is expected.

Cornelio Summaruga, president of the ICRC, met President Saddam Hussein in Iraq this week, to discuss not only aid for refugees, but also possible Red Cross involvement with the hostages, sources said.

● ROME: The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the UN will provide more than 3,600 tonnes of food, worth \$2 million for refugees in response to an appeal from Jordan (Paul Bompard writes). This is expected to feed refugees for three months.

BRITAIN

## Kuwait says Husain will pay for his mistakes

By MICHAEL KNIFE DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

SHEIKH Saad al-Abdullah al-Sabah, the crown prince and prime minister of Kuwait, said in London yesterday that it would be for the United Nations Security Council to decide next week the next measures to bring about Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the legitimate government.

But he castigated King Hussein of Jordan, lauded the stance of Mrs Thatcher, appealed to President Bush and President Gorbachev to focus their attention on this primary issue and avoided disclosing his view of the essentially defensive posture adopted by Saudi Arabia. He had been asked whether he considered another security council resolution necessary to force Iraq to back down and how he regarded Saudi Arabia's clearly stated view that the multinational force on its territory was defensive.

The security council would be discussing next week the report of Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the secretary-general, the prince said, and it would be for the council to decide whether a further resolution would be necessary.

The prince said he hoped the UN sanctions and blockade would achieve the desired objective. He could not attach a time scale to that but if necessary, "we'll fight and struggle and fight again with all our friends and Arab brothers".

Asked whether he welcomed King Hussein's attempts to keep channels of communications open with Iraq, and whether he envisaged supporting Jordan financially, as Kuwait had done in the past, the prince said: "The king has to bear the consequences of his own policies and the serious mistakes he has made."

He was fulsome in his praise of Mrs Thatcher. He had come out of his meeting with the prime minister two days ago "very satisfied", he said, and he expressed the gratitude of Kuwaitis "at a popular level and an official level for the great support given to us by the government and people of Great Britain."

Sheikh al-Sabah, who wore his traditional gold-trimmed robes and head-dress, conducted the press conference with calm dignity and only when he was directly referring to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq did bitterness creep in.

Kuwait had supported Iraq's military build up "believing that in due course it would help liberate occupied Palestine, but unfortunately the Iraqi army was used against our country."

Asked if by supporting Iraq, Kuwait had not helped create the military strength that had devoured it, the prince said no Kuwaiti would have imagined that as soon as he had finished with the war with Iran, the Iraqi leader would send his troops into Kuwait. "I have met with Saddam Hussein so many times and talked to him so many times... and he has assured me so many times in different places and different occasions. He said to me quite frankly that whatever problems we had, military, political or economic, would be sorted out and settled in brotherly fashion. He assured me there would never be a day when Iraq would send its forces to invade Kuwait."

Saudi Arabia's defence minister was quoted as saying last week that his country would not allow its territory to be used for an attack on Iraq. But Mr Hurd said that, after talks with King Fahd in Jeddah on Tuesday, there were no differences between them. Both wanted to bring about the withdrawal of Iraq by peaceful means, but neither excluded the use of force if it became inevitable.

BRITAIN

## Thatcher pledges cash support

By PHILIP WEBSTER, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN yesterday pledged government finance to support Middle East states hardest hit by sanctions.

Nicholas Brady, the United States treasury secretary, said after meeting Mrs Thatcher at Downing Street that she had been "enormously supportive" of Washington's plan to provide compensation for the financial cost of the Gulf operation.

Although no precise figure was given, British help is understood to be likely to run into tens of millions of pounds.

Mr Brady said: "It is absolutely essential that we get money for the front-line states, because it is at the essence of making sure that the sanctions work, and I have no doubt we will get it." He hinted

that the plan could consist partly of debt write-offs for those countries, similar to the \$7 billion (£3.75m) relief announced for Egypt by the Bush administration.

Turkey, Jordan and Egypt are expected to be the main beneficiaries. He said his role at this stage was more that of co-ordination and consultation, rather than reaching detailed agreements, but both Britain and France, which he visited on Tuesday, had agreed to the concept.

"The broad outline of our plan is to add a third spoke to the wheel. Diplomatic support for the world effort against the aggression of Saddam Hussein is already in place, the military backing for our effort is fast coming into place and

now the job that President Bush wanted us to go to world leaders to talk about, that of providing economic support, is under way," Mr Brady said.

British sources said Mr Brady outlined to Mrs Thatcher details of the US burden-sharing plan, and that the prime minister said Britain was grateful to America for putting together the "excellent" initiative. Mrs Thatcher told Mr Brady that Britain would contribute financially to a package of assistance, and would let the US have detailed figures as soon as possible. America was not pressing Britain for a contribution to the military burden-sharing. The discussion lasted about 45 minutes, and other matters relating to the Gulf conflict were considered.

Hurd said these should be left until later. A senior Jordanian official said the king's plans to hold a further round of talks with President Saddam Hussein showed the value of Jordan's policy of remaining on civil terms with Baghdad. But Britain and America see his mission as an unhelpful diversion, giving an impression that a compromise might be acceptable.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed Jordan was still receiving 90 per cent of its oil from Iraq by road tankers. It was ready to reduce this to 50 per cent, but that would depend on compensation from the United Nations. Amman has

## Amman journalists walk out on Hurd after row over policy

FROM ANDREW MCEWEN IN AMMAN

STRONG differences between Britain and Jordan over Amman's equivocal position after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, were emphasised yesterday when more than 50 local journalists walked out of a press conference given by Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary.

Salim Maani, a spokesman for the journalists, harangued Mr Hurd, who sat looking embarrassed as television cameras recorded the scene. Mr Maani said the walkout was a protest against Britain's policy towards Iraq and its "double standard" in failing to show equal firmness towards the

Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza. "Your policy towards Iraq and the Arab states illustrates that it is your strategy to humiliate Arabs and keep them slaves," he said.

Mr Hurd said the walkout was "symbolic of a rather limited understanding of the purposes of a press conference". It emphasised, however, the strong support for Baghdad among the Palestinians, who make up almost half of Jordan's population of three million.

In talks with King Hussein and Crown Prince Hassan, Mr Hurd urged Jordan to implement fully the United Nations embargo. He also showed reservations about

the king's approach towards a negotiated solution.

While Amman continued to deny that it had made any firm proposals, the king is understood to have suggested a simultaneous withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait, and American and other foreign forces from Saudi Arabia, followed by talks within six months.

Mr Hurd said the Jordanians told him their position had been misunderstood. They wanted a full withdrawal from Kuwait and the reinstatement of the Kuwaiti government, which he understood to be unconditional demands. However, Amman also believed that wider issues should be discussed at the same time, while Mr

Hurd said these should be left until later.

A senior Jordanian official said the king's plans to hold a further round of talks with President Saddam Hussein showed the value of Jordan's policy of remaining on civil terms with Baghdad. But Britain and America see his mission as an unhelpful diversion, giving an impression that a compromise might be acceptable.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed Jordan was still receiving 90 per cent of its oil from Iraq by road tankers. It was ready to reduce this to 50 per cent, but that would depend on compensation from the United Nations. Amman has

submitted a claim for losses stemming from sanctions, which the official said would amount to \$2 billion (\$1.06 billion) a year. Mr Hurd made it clear Britain would support a request for compensation only if Amman fully implemented the embargo.

The official said Jordan was already doing so, with the exception of the oil supplies. All other trade had been stopped. Mr Hurd implied he accepted this assurance.

Mr Hurd was pressed to explain why Britain was opposed to a Soviet proposal for a wide-ranging international conference to deal with Kuwait and other issues. He replied: "What purpose do you

مكتبة ابن خلدون



## THE INVASION OF KUWAIT: THE MIDDLE EAST

# Baker sketches plan for Gulf policing force after victory

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

JAMES Baker, the US Secretary of State, has floated the idea of a new Middle East regional security structure to contain Iraq once it is ousted from Kuwait. He suggested the international co-operation engendered by the invasion could become a "springboard" for ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and establishing a new order in the region.

In appearances before the House and Senate foreign affairs committees over the past two days, Mr Baker gave only an outline of his thinking, but suggested such a security structure would involve "major Arab participation".

Referring to Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear warfare capabilities, Mr Baker said it should be possible to create a security structure "that would make it so clearly to the detriment of any subsequent leader or even the present leader to use or even contemplate using any of those weapons that there would be very little risk that they would be used".

Mr Baker envisaged using the international response to

the Iraqi invasion as a "springboard" not only for curbing the proliferation of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons in the region, but also for fresh efforts "to resolve the conflicts which lie at the root of such proliferation, including the festering conflict between Israel and its Palestinian and Arab neighbours". It was not just enough to demonstrate that aggression did not pay. "We must show that a pathway to reconciliation and peace does exist and that it can be found with good will and good faith on all sides," he said.

Moderate Arab states will certainly expect Washington to put pressure on Israel to return for their opposition to Iraq. Mr Baker wants to continue his frustrated efforts to promote Israeli-Palestinian talks. Though the PLO has damaged the chances of such a dialogue by supporting Iraq, Mr Baker said he believed a "reassessment" of that position was under way.

Mr Baker's congressional appearances, the first by any administration official since the confrontation began, did much to dispel the fog that has obscured the administration's longer-term aims and strategy. He played down the prospect of war. He talked up the potential of diplomacy. He said US objectives included the removal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait and the restoration

of the legitimate Kuwaiti government, but did not extend to the toppling of President Saddam or the destruction of Iraq's war machine. The idea of a regional security structure appeared to be a direct retort to those who say such destruction is essential to ensure that Iraq never again threatens its neighbours.

Warning against negotiations, Mr Baker said: "We don't buy this idea that some are pushing today that you've got to find a way to give Saddam Hussein a face-saving way out, give him something that would in effect reward him for his aggression." Responding to those who argue that the US should not be seeking to restore a feudal monarchy, Mr Baker said the US objective was to restore the legitimate government of Kuwait. He indicated that Washington might support moves towards democracy in the Middle East in future, but for now the US would not allow dictators to force political change in other countries.

Senators and congressmen praised the administration's handling of the confrontation, but their common concern was that America's allies should accept a much greater share of the burden.



Safe and sound: Mrs Ann Ibrahim carrying her two-week old baby daughter, Yasmin, after arriving at Gatwick airport on the Virgin flight from Amman yesterday. Yasmin was born while her mother was held captive in the Gulf

BRITAIN

## Second hostage group to set out in convoy today

By MICHAEL KNIPE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT AND MARK SOUSTER

A MESSAGE announcing another large-scale road convoy from Kuwait to Baghdad for women and children was broadcast on the BBC World Service last night. The convoy was due to leave from the Hyatt Regency hotel in Kuwait city at 0500 BST today.

The successful arrival in Baghdad of a first convoy of seven coaches and two cars carrying 300 women and children, which set out from Kuwait on Tuesday, is expected to reassure those still in Kuwait about joining the new convoy. Sources in Whitehall expect between 200 and 300 people will join it.

The Foreign Office disclosed yesterday that 30 British women and children who tried to join Tuesday's convoy were seized by the Iraqis. Details were not known yesterday but sources in Whitehall believed that they were probably taken at road checkpoints by low-level military units which had not received word from their superiors to allow those attempting to depart to reach the convoy's designated assembly point.

The women and children seized were initially being held at the Mervent Hotel in Kuwait, which has been used by the Iraqi authorities for the past month as a detention centre for Western foreigners. A Foreign Office spokesman said there was no suggestion they were maltreated.

Tuesday's convoy was met by British embassy officials as it arrived in Baghdad. The passengers disembarked at the Mansour Melia hotel where British diplomats were initially denied access to them. But after the diplomats returned to the embassy the convoy arrived at the embassy gates where diplomats were able to check that the passengers were all right.

Yesterday embassy officials were doing their best to facilitate the issuing by the Iraqi authorities of exit visas for the Britons. The women who had arrived in the convoy described the intense discomfort of the 500-mile journey. This included some of the children suffering from travel sickness and the fear of being detained at roadblocks.

An early group of 24 British women and children to arrive in Baghdad from Kuwait were yesterday granted exit visas and put on board an Iraqi Airways aircraft chartered by France which flew to Amman. It was hoped to connect with an Air France charter from Amman to Paris.

Meanwhile, another plane-load of British women and children returned from the Gulf yesterday having escaped from Iraq to Jordan. Among the 105 hostages who arrived at Gatwick from Amman were 57 Britons, 29 Americans, four Australians and two Canadians. They returned on a Virgin Atlantic Boeing 747 which had brought in 30 tons of food and medical supplies.

Richard Branson, the head of Virgin, criticised the French ambassador in Jordan, who he said had refused to agree to a deal for Virgin to take French hostages from Baghdad to Paris.

Letters, page 11

ISRAEL

## West Bank problem will still demand attention

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN JERUSALEM

ISRAEL'S confident assertion that the Gulf events have pushed the Palestinian issue to one side was called into question yesterday as Israeli newspapers gave a warning that the Helsinki summit could lead to an understanding between Washington and Moscow on the need to resolve all Middle East conflicts, including Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

David Levy, Israel's foreign minister, yesterday met James Baker, the US Secretary of State, in Washington to press for increased American military aid and to argue that the Palestine Liberation Organisation's support for President Saddam Hussein has ruled it out as a negotiating partner. But the newspaper *Maariv* reported that President Gorbachev will propose to President Bush that an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait should be accompanied by an Israeli withdrawal from the territories.

Officially, Washington has



Levy: demand for arms to keep 'qualitative edge'

rejected "linkage" between the Gulf conflict and the West Bank. President Saddam has offered parallel talks on Iraq's occupation of Palestinian land and the Syrian presence in Lebanon. The Iraqi leader argued that the United Nations had been quick to move against Iraq yet had still not evicted Israel from the West Bank after 23 years.

The United States, like Israel, rejects any such anal-

ogy. US officials agree that Israel's control of the territories was not the result of an act of aggression but of the 1967 war in which Israel was attacked. Washington also shares the Israeli view that the support given by Yasser Arafat, the PLO chairman, to President Saddam has damaged the PLO's image, undoing a two-year diplomatic campaign by Mr Arafat to present himself as a moderate.

"Qatar is expelling Palestinians and Abu Dhabi has refused to let Arafat's plane land to refuel," one Israeli official said. "You can hardly expect Israel to be kinder to Arafat than the Gulf Arabs."

But beneath the jubilation of Israel's government, is an undertone of anxiety. The newspaper *Haaretz* yesterday took to task Boutros Boutros Ghali, minister of state at the Egyptian foreign ministry, for saying that "the real crisis affecting the region is rooted in the Palestinian problem". He said that Israel's refusal to further the peace process had "created a background of instability even before the Gulf crisis erupted". Israeli officials are worried that Mr Baker also takes this view.

Despite disavowals, Washington might be tempted to agree with Moscow and the moderate Arab states, led by Egypt, that all Middle East issues should be tackled in a bid to stabilise a volatile region once and for all.

Diplomats said that discussion of a Palestinian delegation to peace talks with Israel was "on ice" after the collapse of the Likud-Labour coalition in March over US proposals for Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo. But Israel is aware that Mr Baker does not regard the Palestinian issue as marginal. This week he told Congress that the Kuwaiti issue could be "a springboard for revived efforts to resolve the conflicts which lie at the root of regional instability".

These included, he said, "the proliferation of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons, and the festering conflict between Israel and its Palestinian and Arab neighbours".

This has points in common with the Soviet proposal for a comprehensive international peace conference, reiterated by Eduard Shevardnadze, the Soviet foreign minister, on Tuesday. Mr Shamir at first welcomed Mr Shevardnadze's remarks, believing they referred to a conference on the Gulf only, but later categorically rejected the initiative.

On the Gulf conflict itself, Israel is worried Washington might settle for a compromise short of the removal of President Saddam, leaving Baghdad free to develop its nuclear weapons programme and build up its threat to Israel. Mr Levy emphasised Israel's demand for advanced weapons to maintain its "qualitative edge" and to compensate for the supply to Saudi Arabia of \$2 billion (about £1.07 billion) of sophisticated armaments. In addition, Israel wants Washington to write off Israel's \$4.5 billion debt, following its decision to forgive Egypt's debt of \$7 billion.

SAUDI ARABIA

## Fighting men put faith in Koran

FROM NICHOLAS BEESTON IN DHAHRAN

LIEUTENANT Samir Saleh believes the best protection for Saudi Arabia against the threat of an Iraqi attack is in the top left pocket of his combat jacket.

"This is what will defeat Saddam," he said, producing a small Koran, copies of which he is distributing to Saudi Arabia's frontline troops. "We do not need US help, we only need faith in Allah," said the young cleric, who acts as a Muslim version of an army chaplain.

"Just as the Mujahedin of Afghanistan sent the Soviet soldiers home, so we will defeat the Iraqis."

The casual dismissal of Western military aid would probably not find great support among his countrymen, who have by and large welcomed the arrival of American forces to defend their country and the two holiest shrines in Islam at Mecca and Medina.

But the enthusiasm he displays for going to war would certainly strike a chord with thousands of young Saudis who have responded to King Fahd's call-up appeal.

Young men are queuing every morning at the Khalidia national guard barracks near here to volunteer to defend the country which only came into being after the first world war.

The road outside the military compound is choked with expensive American limousines, and although the young men signing up certainly do not need the money or the prospect of uncomfortable basic train-

ing, the spirit of war has infected the nation and every young man now wants to be seen in uniform.

If anything, the Saudis, urged on by constant televised coverage of their forces in the field, have displayed an even more pugnacious attitude than the notoriously "gung-ho" US ground forces.

"When are we going in to destroy the Iraqis?" one Saudi asked recently, mistaking me for a foreign soldier and bemoaning the use of diplomacy to solve the Gulf conflict.

What military advantage Saudi Arabia hopes to gain from the addition of as many as 40,000 new part-time soldiers to its force of 65,000 men remains unclear. At one training centre in the eastern province, new recruits did not fill their training officers with great confidence. Some young men, obviously unfit and unused to any exertion, found themselves trapped in a barbed-wire obstacle course, while others opted to run round a hand-to-hand combat dummy rather than plunge their bayonets in.

Expatriates working here tend to greet the Saudi appetite for battle with some cynicism, pointing out that the country has never been at war and has tended in the past to pay off its potential enemies rather than fight.

"I have fought in a war and, believe me, if these people knew what it was like, they would not be quite so enthusiastic," remarked one Pakistani visitor.

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John O'Leary

## MacGregor on a limb

Of all the main elements of the school system, the only one that has been impervious to the tide of Conservative education reform is the A level. Yesterday's proposed revision by the government's examination advisers, through which it was, will sanction few fundamental changes. It was never intended to.

The prime minister has declared the A level to be the gold standard of the education system, and soon overruled the education department in sealing the fate of the last reform package, in 1988. Michael Fallon, her new schools minister, quelled any doubts about the current exercise with a promise not to weaken, modify or otherwise "muck about" with the exam. The School Examinations and Assessment Council (SEAC) could make what recommendations it liked so long as they added up to more of the same.

Immediate pressure for change evaporated last month when the first set of A level students have taken the GCSE confounded the sceptics with results that showed an improvement on 1989. But their successes have only confirmed another group of critics in the view that standards are falling.

Under the circumstances, the secondary head teachers' view that SEAC made a brave attempt at the impossible with its package of mild reform may not be far wide of the mark. Encouraging mid-course assessment and allowing schools to award a proportion of the final mark for coursework may be seen by traditionalists as the thin end of the wedge, but it amounts to little more than a recognition of a wedge already in place. A level syllabuses have emphasised coursework have drawn applications in such numbers that their spread is inevitable.

John MacGregor, the education secretary, may nod in the direction of the standards lobby by reducing the maximum coursework assessment allowed in schools, but there is no prospect of a return to universal reliance on a single examination. This year's results may have been good, but most educationists still believe more continuity is needed between GCSE and A level. Mr MacGregor will be content to allow the examining boards freedom to bring the two closer together, as long as standards do not appear to suffer.

This, of course, is where the battle will be in the months ahead. There have frequently been allegations, some by leading head teachers, that A levels are becoming easier, but all are anecdotal. Academic rigour means different things to different people, and the boards insist that the changing nature of some subjects — especially in science, where knowledge is increasing so fast — is as much responsible for the swing away from the old emphasis on the absorbing of facts as any

knock-on effect of the GCSE. Mr MacGregor himself is demanding some reform, and insisting that core skills, including communication, problem-solving and personal capability, be measured at A level. Modern language competence and familiarity with information technology are also among the government's requirements. Ministers hope to achieve these aims partly by broadening the curriculum through the use of AS levels, encouraging sixth formers to take varied subjects at different levels.

So far, however, there is little sign of schools adopting such an approach, despite an increase in the number of AS level entries this year. The universities, which are usually blamed for stifling exam reform, have supported the change this time, as well as backing the 1988 plans for five "leaner but tougher" A levels to replace the conventional three. They are conscious of the need for more qualified applicants to enable them to fulfil their own expansion plans at a time of demographic decline among 18-year-olds.

The demand now in the educational establishment is for a thorough re-examination of the post-GCSE scene. Richard Pring, professor of education at Oxford University, is the latest to put the case. At a conference yesterday he decried the "fumbling" approach to reform. "It is quite obvious to me if not to anyone else," he said, "that post-16 reforms should have begun with a look at post-16 provision as a whole, and not with the reform of A levels," whatever claims are made about integration with vocational courses.

The SEAC proposals to link some vocational courses with appropriate A levels will satisfy him as little as it will satisfy traditionalists such as Nick Seaton, chairman of the Campaign for Real Education, who fears that the reforms will make A levels "as meaningless as GCSE". Mr MacGregor is caught between irreconcilable demands, with some of the more obvious options (such as development of a British baccalaureate) already ruled out.

He is committed to a review of A levels and AS levels that will preserve standards while establishing a link with GCSE and continuing towards the Tories' target of doubling the proportion of young people going on to higher education. The standard at which A level is pitched is of crucial importance to his other objectives. Yet while theoretically he retains control through SEAC, the drift towards more coursework already sanctioned by the examining boards shows how the system can evolve without his direct intervention. That has always been the cross education secretaries have had to bear, and it will be no different with A levels, regardless of reviews.

...and moreover

## CLEMENT FREUD

To shuck or not to shuck, that was the question. There being an "I" in the month, we shucked. Michael Fish the weather man. Peter Manzi, who does it more quickly than anyone, and I. You put the oyster into your left hand, grip the short sharp dagger with which you prise apart the shell in your right, find the place where the upper and lower halves are most separable, jam in and turn the blade, and hope that what opens will be the mollusc rather than the length of your thumb.

Natives are back; do not go to Colchester without a lemon wedge. (For the record, grouse are back also: on the 12th and subsequent days of any month containing a "g" they make grouse while you shuck oysters. Five letter words ending in -uck are socially acceptable.)

The most envied man in the kitchen in which I served my apprenticeship was William the Oysterer — receiver of four months a year paid summer holiday. Annually on April 30 he would wrap his knives in his leather apron, secure the parcel in oiled silk and do his farewell lap of honour around the stoves, extending his horny, finger-depleted right hand to his friends in the fish, sauce, soup and roast departments. "One two three" he said; it was his only joke — shortly "I see you on September 1st" for man's inhumanity to oyster takes a 123-day breather in the summer months.

There is rhythm in the way Mr Manzi opens natives: he is like a smooth one-man production line. Mr Fish is new to the game and tries to use both hands and his teeth to get the shell open. I manage, though, am steadily surprised when it works and particularly inept when it comes to cutting the beast from its mooring and flipping it onto its best side.

In the professional kitchen, the oysterer's job is some way down the social totipot pole: above the genuinely low-life kitchen porters, plungers and silver-room men, but still megamillions beneath the white-clad elite who wear starched hats of a height becoming to their station. The Jennitor who decrees where different classes of staff

shall eat placed him with us apprentices, and daily during the months of his operation he would bring to our feast oysters that were too small, too milky or too damaged to sell to customers; these, with overcooked steak from roast, a double-ordered sole bonnie fennel from fish, a garbure of-the-day that insufficient punters had ordered from soup, formed our meal. I was keen on oysters. Had been told they were an aphrodisiac; knew a Welsh boy who said "if you don't swallow them quickly, you get a stiff neck". Believed him.

At Green's and at Wheeler's — where I sampled the new season's crop — Aphrodite was not mentioned, which is sensible. The theory that certain foods turn you on is a fraud; I have seen men remain unmoved after a meal of bivalves, ginseng and mint-tee, yet on other occasions become seriously excited on sago pudding. What matters is the identity of the person who shares your repast.

By the time Mr Manzi had opened two dozen of the brutes, I had managed six: Mr Fish was trailing. Onlookers clapped politely. Below us, where William at the Dorchester in days of yore had a wooden barrel to collect the juice and splinters that issued from his handiwork, we had a stainless steel sink. A pity. For the month that I worked on soup, the barrel was one of my daily ports of call: Billybi (spelt in many other ways also) was my chef's speciality. It is a bisque made by incorporating oyster juices and particles, dry white wine and double cream: reducing this by boiling, thickening it with a little *beurre manie* — a rounded teaspoon of flour rubbed into a rounded desert spoon of butter — seasoning with cayenne pepper and straining into a soup tureen.

Odd thing, but the above recipe does more for me than "the music still singing in her head rose to a crescendo as her parted lips yielded to his. Her fingers clung for support to the material of his shirt, her pliant body moving in whatever way his whim demanded."

For some of us, Mills & Boon trail way behind Epicurus and Escoffier.

# Digging in for the duration

Michael Howard believes victory in the Gulf will go to the side best able to play a waiting game — and that the US and allies must refrain from force because time is with them

So far, so good. In his opening moves in the Gulf, President Bush has hardly put a foot wrong. He rapidly retrieved the initial *faux pas* of invoking Article 51 of the UN Charter to justify unilateral American action, and went on to secure virtually unanimous UN approval for an effective blockade. He has built up a majority against Saddam Hussein within the Arab world, and won the guarded approval of both the Soviet Union and China. For the moment no further decisions are called for. It will take some weeks to complete the military build-up, and it will be some months before the blockade becomes effective. The president can congratulate himself that so far he has not, as he put it, made the wrong mistakes.

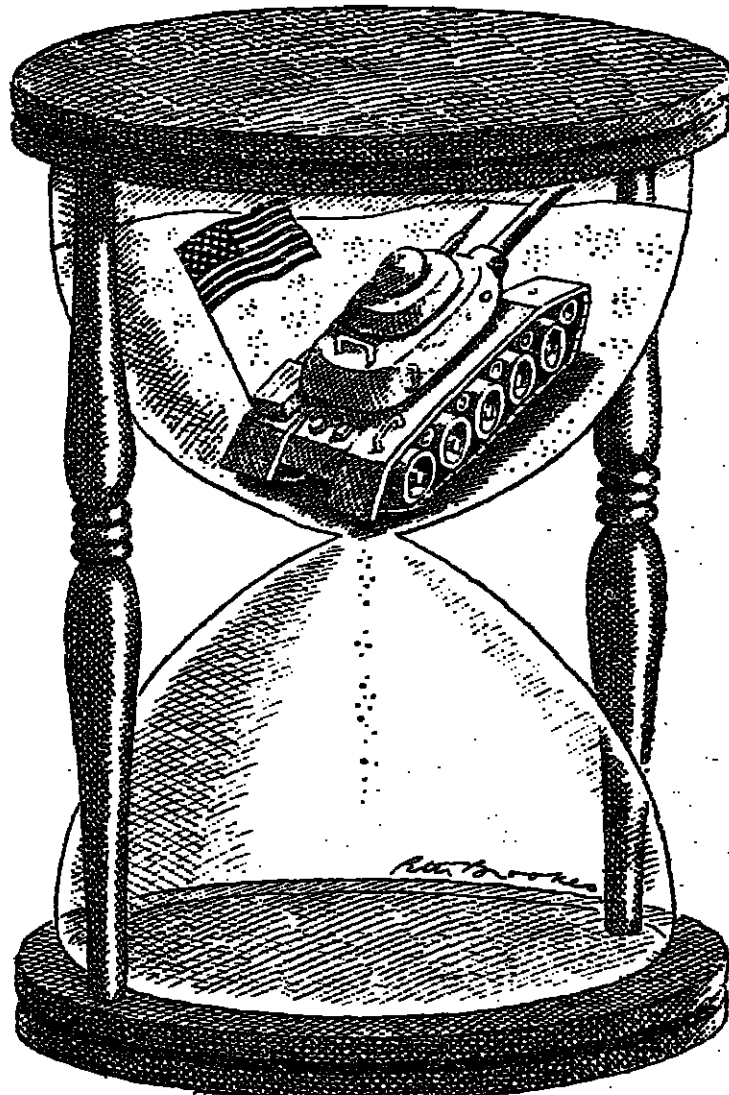
But the difficult part is now beginning. Optimists hope for one of two outcomes. One is a blockade so effective that Saddam has to withdraw from Kuwait — or, better still, is overthrown by elements in his own government. The other is a small war in which American technology destroys the Iraqi war machine in a matter of days, with minimal casualties to Americans, incidentally "zapping" Saddam in his Baghdad bunker. But it is remarkable, and salutary, how few such optimists now seem to be around.

The pessimists pose more sombre alternatives. One is a blockade that Saddam can survive by rationing and blockade-running via overland and air deliveries, but which would inflict hardships on his "foreign guests" and receive full media coverage. As month succeeds month, world interest in maintaining the blockade might slacken. UN solidarity might erode as other issues grab the headlines, and the question of Kuwaiti independence might become an archaic legalism like that of Tibet. A new turn of events in the Middle East might make Saddam once more appear to Washington as a desirable ally. Other things have happened. Given sufficient patience, Saddam

could possibly get away with it. The pessimists' other fear is a war in which the Americans find themselves on their own, suffering (by their standards) heavy casualties, domestically divided and drained economically. Saddam could play the cards of chemical warfare, exposure of hostages and escalation into an Arab-Israeli conflict. Such a war would be a disaster even if the Americans won, for it would leave a legacy of hatred throughout the Middle East and would destabilise the economy of the industrial world. To start a war without appreciating that it might turn out this way would be lunacy.

Many hope that Saddam will take the burden of choice off Mr Bush's shoulders by an act so provocative that the entire UN will feel bound collectively to respond. Unfortunately, so shrewd an operator is unlikely to do us any such favour. Nor does Mr Bush have the option exercised by President Johnson in 1964 at the time of the Gulf of Tonkin incident: seizing on or provoking a minor clash as an excuse for a major escalation. American opinion is now too sophisticated and its allies are too sceptical to buy that one again. If he is to keep public opinion behind him and the United Nations united, Mr Bush must continue to play — or be seen to play — strictly by the book.

But playing by the book involves a further dilemma. The book — that the UN resolutions — calls for Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and the restoration of the "legitimate" regime. It says nothing about the overthrow of Saddam, and unless Saddam behaves far more provocatively than hitherto, any such action is unlikely to command majority support in the Security Council. A purely Western attempt to oust him would be seen as blatant colonialism, akin to the British attempt to topple Nasser in 1956. Yet even if he withdraws from Kuwait, Saddam will remain a danger. His open ambition, his



military strength and his lack of scruple in using it all make him a permanent threat to the stability of the region. Would a return to the *status quo ante bellum* really provide a satisfactory resolution to the crisis? Or was the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, like the German attack on Belgium in 1914 or on Poland in 1939, symptomatic of a deeper problem requiring more drastic surgery?

These are the questions Mr Bush has been wrestling with, and he seems to have come up with the right answers. The first is to continue to keep in line with his allies. Quite properly he is demanding greater contributions from them, but the more contributions they make, the greater becomes their right to be consulted. The Soviet Union may not be quite an ally but its advice

and consent are of major importance. The more the United States is seen as the agent of the international community, and not simply of the rich industrial nations of the West, the easier will be the isolation of Saddam Hussein and the more effective the pressures brought to bear on him.

Militarily, unless Saddam provokes hostilities, Mr Bush seems to have decided simply to sweat it out. It is suggested that the American people do not have the patience for a prolonged confrontation, but the suggestion usually comes from journalists (not only American) who cannot bear the prospect of months going by with no striking headlines. In fact the American people will probably be no different from anyone else in their reactions. For them, waiting will not involve any real hardship,

and they are unlikely to seek relief in a pre-emptive war. They are no longer the gung-ho romantics of the Kennedy generation, prepared to endure any sacrifice in the cause of freedom.

They learned from Vietnam that wars go on for an unpredictable length of time and involve an unpredictable number of people — and not always the right people — being killed. This time, moreover, many American civilians will be at risk. Under these circumstances they are likely to be patient for as long as it takes.

Mr Bush will thus get as much domestic support for a policy of caution as he will from his allies. That is not to say that war may not come through some unpredictable turn of events. If it does, it is unlikely to stop short of the total defeat of Saddam. Even if they were to limit their military objectives to the liberation of Kuwait, the Americans would need first to strike, and keep striking, at the source of Iraqi air power, and that must involve substantial collateral damage. Saddam might eventually be destroyed but, as with Hitler, a great deal else would have been destroyed as well. And then what?

On balance the dangers of initiating war — initiating rather than accepting it if forced upon us — are thus much greater than those of remaining at peace. Since Saddam is likely to see things the same way, we may have to expect a prolonged confrontation and ensure that his nerve is the first to crack. But that does not mean negotiation. As Pérez de Cuellar, the UN secretary-general, has discovered, there is nothing to negotiate about. Either Iraq conforms to the UN resolutions or it does not. Once it does, negotiations can take place about its future relations with Kuwait.

Nor does it mean an "Arab solution". There has already been an Arab League by a majority vote, has condemned Iraq, endorsed the UN resolutions and accepted the presence of foreign troops to enforce them. It means waiting patiently until Saddam either capitulates or initiates military action. Ultimately time is on our side, and he knows it.

As for Saddam's own future, that is best left to his own people and to his neighbours. They do not have a tradition of being kind to failures.

Str. Michael Howard is Robert E. Lester Professor of Modern History at Yale University.

Marc Weller explains how the Kuwaiti delegation to the UN shot its country in the foot

## The legal right to fight surrendered

Under Article 51 of the UN Charter, which is bound to be cited by all sides in the Commons debate on the Gulf today, self-defence can be invoked in response to an armed attack only "until the Security Council has taken the measures necessary to maintain international peace and security". According to Washington's controversial interpretation, it is not up to the Security Council to determine whether it has taken the "measures necessary"; individual states remain free to decide. And although the exiled emir has so far asked only for military help in enforcing the blockade, Britain was announced that technically, "we would have legal authority to take further measures" under Article 51, and also by the request of the ruler of Kuwait that we do everything possible to recover his territory.

This argument has never really been tested, since up to now the cold war and the stifling veto of the permanent members of the Security Council has precluded enforcement measures. For example, when the Falklands were invaded, the UN was unable to agree collective measures, and the

right to self-defence was used by Britain. But now the UN has adopted tough sanctions and provided for their enforcement.

However, the far-sighted legal advisers at the US State Department inserted a clause into the text of the first economic sanctions resolution, 661, which reserved Kuwait's right under Article 51. Little attention was paid to that provision by most members of the council, for there was no reason to expect unilateral actions when the UN members were unprecedentedly united.

The risk of losing this wide international support prompted Washington and London to go back to the UN to ask for a mandate to cover the naval blockade, which had aroused disagreement in the Security Council. But a reference in another US draft resolution on the blockade which could have been interpreted as hinting at the right to self-defence, had to be deleted. A Kuwaiti delegate to the UN consoled himself by saying that "the language of Resolution 665 was the product of compromise between

the superpowers — no wonder that things had to be taken out."

Despite these reassuring amendments, it took the UN almost a week to adopt Resolution 665, and in the end the mandate to use force in pursuit of the blockade had to be shrouded in vague terms to induce Chirac's sign.

The chief US delegate, Thomas Pickering, claimed that the reserved right of self-defence contained in Resolution 661 had been specifically rejected in the negotiations. Only Britain made a similar statement, but hinted at the desirability of further UN authorisation if more forceful measures became necessary.

A number of delegations, from the Finns to the French, felt it necessary to place on record that there was no *carte blanche* for the indiscriminate use of force. However, the most deadly blow for the self-defence argument came unexpectedly when the Kuwaiti representative to the Security Council, Mohammed Abulhasan, jubilantly declared that Resolution 665 "will attain the desired results and closes the loopholes"

in UN measures. He committed his country to "the path of peace to attain and secure its rights". A fellow Kuwaiti delegate added that "no party intends to undertake unilateral actions. If the current initiatives under the mandate of Resolution 665 fail, then it would be appropriate and necessary to go back to the Council and seek authorisation for further measures."

In effect, Kuwait itself has acknowledged that the Security Council has taken the "measures necessary" of Article 51 for the maintenance of peace and security. Since it has therefore apparently abandoned self-defence in favour of UN action, no other state can rely on the subsidiary right of collective self-defence on its behalf.

In what may have been an embarrassing oversight, Kuwait's mentors in Washington failed to persuade their client to leave open the possibility of military operations at a later stage — a mistake difficult, if not impossible, to reverse, although the emir's government-in-exile has now started talking about the need for a military offensive.

Of course, the loss of the right to evict Saddam Hussein from Kuwait unilaterally does not mean that the world remains defenceless and at his mercy. Further action by the Security Council is likely if the economic embargo does not defeat him. Kuwaiti freedom-fighters struggling for national liberation may receive outside assistance, but so far Saddam has taken care not to provoke a direct strike by the powers who face him in the Gulf. The Iraqis have actively avoided naval and aerial incidents, and a small skirmish would not in itself permit massive retaliation.

Saddam has also withdrawn his elite tank and missile forces further behind the Iraqi lines to destroy the legal argument that an "anticipatory act of self-defence" is necessary to forestall an imminent and overwhelming attack. But were Baghdad systematically to threaten the lives of foreigners, their home states' right of self-defence might be activated. It is impossible to say what response such an outrage would trigger.

The author is a researcher in international law at Queens' College, Cambridge.

## If it's worth saying once...

As TUC delegates hung on every word of Neil Kinnock's speech on Tuesday, some could have been forgiven for thinking they had heard much of it before. His remarks about Arthur Scargill and the Gulf, which received the most media coverage, were of course new. But much of the rest — a fierce attack on the Tory record — was a well-worn repetition of his last year's public speech before the summer holiday, at the miners' annual gala in June.

He told the miners, to a standing ovation: "You'd think they had only just been elected. You'd think they'd hardly had time to unpack their bags. But they have had 11 years. And 11 years is a very long time in economics." The very same words had the same effect on the brothers in Blackpool. He even used the same example: "Eleven years, for instance, is the difference between 1947 when the German economy was still devastated and 1958 when it was surging ahead." Even the commas were in the same place.

Kinnock summed up the last decade to the TUC as "The Thatcher years. The wasted Eighties. That will be their epitaph." A crisp enough summary; but less so when one was hearing it for the second time around.

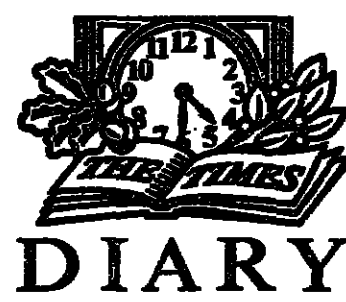
There was more of the same about wasted oil revenues and the biggest tax burden in British history, leading up to this lyrical peroration: "Never has so much been taken from so many by so few with so little show for it." All

lifted from his last public offering. Kinnock's office was unrepentant about the self-plagiarism yesterday, insisting that he would be "repeating the theme of 11 wasted years over and over again until the next election." (And why not as with a slightly different number it was also the theme that won Harold Wilson his first election in 1964?)

But Kinnock did change one thing. In June he told the miners that Britain's inflation rate was 40 per cent above the average of our

EC partners: on Tuesday he quoted a whole paragraph verbatim, except for claiming that the difference had risen to 70 per cent.

To prepare for the Monet exhibition, the Royal Academy had to find a someone to translate into French the taped exhibition narration by the Academy's president, Roger de Grey. A London-based French painter who moonlights as a translator was delighted to oblige. His name? Philippe Monet.



## Plunder plea

London museums are appealing to Saddam Hussein to save the unrivalled collection of Islamic art assembled by Kuwait's royal family amid reports of wholesale looting by Iraqi troops. Accumulated at a cost of millions by Sheikh Nasser Al Sabah, the collection contains oriental and Middle Eastern gold and silver work — including important Moghul jewellery from India — carpets, pottery, glass and weaponry.

Venetia Porter of the British Museum's oriental department, who worked on the collection in Kuwait two years ago, says many masterpieces would be instantly recognisable on the black market. But Anthony North, senior research assistant at the V&A's department of metal working, who is co-ordinating the campaign to save the collection, points out that gold and silver can be melted down and that to pile precious glass and ceramics in the back of a van is to invite breakages. "Some items, such as a solid gold 17th-century dagger encrusted with gems, could be broken up — it's very alarming."

The collection was kept in glass

cases on two floors of a custom-built area. Staff would not have had time to rescue the masterpieces in advance of the Iraqi invasion, hence the growing fears that rampaging soldiers might already have smashed the cases and stolen the most tempting objects.

North has contacted a friend in the potential war zone seeking up-to-date information and is discussing a co-ordinated approach to Saddam with the British Museum. "Our message for Saddam is that he honour the Islamic tradition and preserve these magnificent examples of his own culture."

## First Impressionists

As Christie's revel in the commission to handle the sale of the huge Philippine national art collection put together by Imelda Marcos, rivals at Sotheby's are wondering why they lost the deal. The answer may lie in Sotheby's choice of artistic ambassador to Manila. While Christie's sent Lord Carrington, consummate diplomat and archetypal English gentleman, to charm President Cory Aquino, Sotheby's sent their American chairman, Alfred Taubman, a shopping-mall developer who once said that selling art was "like selling rot beer". Taubman's streetwise style went down like a lead balloon, and Carrington's old-world charm won the day.

With hindsight, do Sotheby's feel that their London chairman, Lord Gownie, might have been a better envoy? "Alfred Taubman is a highly successful and respected businessman and philanthropist," insists Sotheby's. "He is very good at negotiating and making present-

tations." He happened to be visiting the Far East, and so was a natural choice for the job.

Sotheby's hope that all is not lost. "Negotiations are still going on with the Philippines about the rest of the paintings. There are some more impressionists to be sold." And will Gownie be put on the case? "No comment."

## Heavy metal

Karlheinz Stockhausen's 12-hour rehearsals at the Royal Festival Hall for his concert tomorrow night have been accompanied by some drama. First the German avant-garde composer was distressed when a bag containing his passport was stolen. Then Stockhausen, who is a believer in the occult, was disturbed as large chunks of metal and other debris started raining down on the platform. "I thought a building like this would be guarded by better spirits," he told the staff. The truth was far more mundane. A gaggle of youngsters had sneaked into the upper gallery and pelted the platform with bits of junk. Hooligans or defenders of musical traditionalism?

In these days of animal lib, the wild of Lord Pagar, until his elevation MP for Northampton for nearly 30 years, strikes an unfashionable note. It requests that "a memorial service or meeting be held at the village where the Fenie Hounds meet on the next convenient day... that his friends come in hunting clothes... that no hunting be stopped... and his trustees provide a good glass of port to everyone attending." The wish of a true hunting-plug Tory? Pagar, in fact, was a stalwart socialist, and surely the last of his breed.





1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## UNITING THE NATION

Emergency sessions of parliament are, and should be, rare. Today's debate should have two functions. The first is to rally Britain's elected representatives in the face of a grave threat and to provide President Saddam Hussein with unequivocal evidence of the country's determination to do whatever is necessary to force Iraq to surrender its human and territorial prey. The second is to ensure that the government's responses and aims are thoroughly cross-examined and understood.

These purposes, as some parliamentary debates during the phoney war phase of the Falklands conflict demonstrated, are not always easily reconciled. The likelihood that British forces will eventually be engaged in war in the Gulf means that this debate cannot be confined to the government's actions so far. The military as well as diplomatic implications of those actions are under scrutiny. The question is how far a responsible government should be forced to spell out the means as well as the ends of policy, and how far a responsible Opposition should press it.

Ends first. British forces have been dispatched for two declared purposes. They are there under article 51 of the UN charter, at the request of Saudi Arabia, to deter Iraq from carrying its war beyond Kuwait's frontiers. They are there, initially at the request of Kuwait under article 51, to enforce UN sanctions against Iraq, through naval enforcement subsequently authorised (after some delay) by the UN Security Council.

Deterrence is working. Sanctions are functioning efficiently, but until Iraq withdraws unconditionally from Kuwait they cannot be said to have "worked". Nor is it altogether clear whether the purpose of the sanctions is to ensure that no invasion recurs, by permanently weakening Iraq. Are British forces in the Gulf to recapture Kuwait by force or even to overthrow Saddam? Were Iraq to withdraw, its military and chemical weapons arsenal intact, would the government consider that Iraq's threat to peace had been removed?

These questions cannot be considered purely hypothetical, as Mrs Thatcher has already acknowledged by referring to the need, once Kuwait has been freed, to examine regional security arrangements. They raise, however, the possibility of an open-ended commitment on which the Opposition will properly seek clarification. No government could expect a blank cheque, and the debate should seek to establish broad agreement on objectives.

The Opposition should, in turn, relinquish the temptation to tie the government's hand on the means to employ. The spirit of adven-

turism reigns on neither side of the house and Mrs Thatcher has been insisting that sanctions must be given every chance, refusing to set any kind of deadline. That does not mean that a deadline will not impose itself, if Iraq continues to refuse to withdraw, if only because the multinational forces assembling in the Gulf cannot sit there indefinitely.

The main point of contention is the government's liberty to act without the express authorisation of the security council. Mrs Thatcher contends that the collective self-defence clause of the UN charter, article 51, provides all the legal authorisation necessary for military action. The Opposition concedes that in certain circumstances — if Iraq attacked another country, or the fleet enforcing the embargo, for example — a quick military response would be justified, without first obtaining a security council resolution. But would bipartisanship break down if Iraq sits tight, if the government judges that the security council would not agree to military action under article 42, and commits forces to a counter-thrust under article 51?

There is nothing ignoble in emphasising the desirability of collective action under UN auspices. The activism of the security council has been historically remarkable, a gain not to be lightly undermined. But the UN's history has been less than glorious, action under article 42 would be unprecedented, and UN diplomacy is not yet mature enough to be counted on. London and Washington must therefore keep their options open.

Kuwait has acknowledged, as argued by Marc Weller opposite, that the security council has taken the action needed to enforce the naval blockade, and should be consulted if further tightening of sanctions is needed. But should Kuwait request it, that does not rule out military action under article 51 in pursuit of resolution 660, demanding Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

Neil Kinnock's test for action under article 51 appears to be not legality in the narrow sense, but the prospect of global, and Arab, support. That is an advance on the position of Gerald Kaufman, who on the ground that "the authority of the United Nations... must be supreme" has come close to saying that, should the UN lose its collective nerve, Labour would oppose "action by one or two countries". Mr Kinnock should use this debate to affirm his party's absolute commitment to seeing that aggression does not pay. The less daylight is glimpsed between the two main political parties today, the better the prospects for success in the dangerous weeks ahead.

## SPORTING LINKS

The English cricket authorities should prepare for an official tour of South Africa. The international conference against apartheid in sport has just completed what may well be its last plenary meeting in Stockholm. Even such inveterate supporters of the sports boycott as Sam Ramsamy, chairman of the anti-apartheid South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee (Sanroc), declared that the resumption of sporting relations was no longer a matter of whether but of when.

The answer is now. Of all forms of the international isolation of South Africa, the sports boycott has been widely regarded as the most effective in undermining white complacency. The essence of sporting contest, on pitch or track or against the clock, is that all men and women are equal. The exclusion from international sport of the sports-loving people of South Africa has symbolised the world's revulsion at the denial of sportsmanship that apartheid demanded.

Cricket was one of the first games to find that apartheid and sport were incompatible, when the South Africans tried to interfere in the racial composition of an England side in 1968. While cricket has not led the way in sports integration, its recent attempts to meet the terms set for ending the boycott have been valiant. In athletics and soccer integration has reached the stage where a national team of the best sportsmen could be assembled without race affecting selection, except insofar as economic deprivation has a race bias. Black sportsmen have brought their performance to a level where a South African national team in athletics or football would be mainly black.

The exclusion of a South African soccer team from all-African or even world competition is now wholly unreasonable. Opinion among the anti-apartheid lobbyists at Stockholm was divided on whether the lifting of the

boycott should in the first instance be partial or total, and if total whether it should have to wait until all forms of sport are as fully integrated as the best. This presupposes that the discipline across world sport which has kept South Africa out — apart from maverick unofficial ventures disowned by sport authorities — can be maintained.

Lifting the boycott for one sport would almost certainly breach the dam for the rest, particularly as the boycott has been observed with a minimum of good grace in such sports as rugby. National political pressure has had to be continuous, for instance, to police the Commonwealth Games agreement. Discrimination between sports would undermine the moral force of such compacts. Why should a more or less white game like cricket still be under ban, for instance, simply because it did not appeal to the sporting tastes of black South Africans as much as football?

The re-establishment of sporting links with South Africa sooner rather than later would not just reward sportsmen in that country for their good behaviour. The justification for imposing the boycott in the first place was its impact, through sport, on white politics. South Africa's whites have started on a path that must lead to power-sharing with blacks. The biggest obstacle in the way of this path is the danger of a white backlash, even of a far-right coup. The restoration of sporting links would give the Nationalist government an invaluable tool to wave in the face of the right: reform does bring some advantages — and here, in the form of an England cricket team, is an international quid pro quo.

The Test and County Cricket Board has waved the stick, now it should offer the carrot. It should state as early as possible that the first post-apartheid cricket tour of South Africa is being scheduled for the winter of 1991.

## OF BIRDS AND MEN

Britain's estuaries, mudflats and tidal reaches provide sustenance for some of the finest wildlife in Europe but as natural habitats they are at risk. A survey by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB) of 123 estuaries, about 80 per cent of the total, has shown 80 to be under threat, a number from more than one source.

Around 30 are in "immediate danger of permanent damage", 49 are threatened by leisure developments, 33 by marinas, 29 by pollution and 29 by land reclamation. Projected barrages will impinge on 22 of them, industry is affecting 17 while 14 are involved in port expansion plans. The Humber, the Blackwater, the Medway and the Thames, the Severn, the Mersey, the Ribble, the Welsh Dee and the Wash are among those on the RSPB's danger list.

The effects are already apparent. The number of dunlin, the most common British wading bird — one third of the European total winter in this country — has been halved in the last 20 years. Between 1975 and 1987 the population of redshank fell by a quarter. Many other waterfowl and waders will die out if forced from their habitats and feeding grounds.

Britain has an international responsibility. In addition to those birds which regularly winter here, millions more stop briefly beside our estuaries while migrating south. The EC's 1979 directive on setting up special protection areas for birds and the 1971 Ramsar inter-

national convention which dealt with the preservation of wetlands placed obligations on the government which it has been less than energetic in fulfilling.

All human activities cannot be halted in the interests of preserving bird life. Britain is not a gigantic bird sanctuary. But yesterday's RSPB report underlines the need for a coastal conservation strategy which would determine and sort out national priorities. One already exists in California. Bird watchers would not be alone in benefiting from it. The piecemeal development of Britain's coastline has for too long been a national disgrace.

The government has acknowledged the environmental importance of Britain's estuaries. But the RSPB claims with justice that protective measures so far have been inadequate. A basic flaw is the lack of a Whitehall sub-department which might assume overall responsibility for the coastline. Its fate is at present determined by as many as 33 different departments.

This confusion is compounded at local government level. The variety of competing local interests is illustrated by the example of the Wash which is bordered by three county council areas. Only when the government takes control and lays down clear guidelines for all users will the weekend sailors, cockle diggers, water skiers, fish farmers, coastal industries and the birds come to terms with one another.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Agony and anger of UK hostages

From Ms Kirsty Norman

Sir, I have just had the immense good fortune to be one of the first hostages to be released from Iraq. Having been in Kuwait City for the first 2½ weeks of the invasion, I made an escape attempt across the desert with a small group of friends. However, we were arrested and that night found ourselves in the first wave of Westerners to be interned at strategic installations in Kuwait.

I would like to register a widely-felt protest at the lack of help and/or useful advice given by the British Embassy in Kuwait and at the inefficiency both of the embassy and the Foreign Office in collecting vital information.

During the first few days of the invasion it would have been possible to drive openly on the main route into Saudi Arabia: this I learned later from a Swiss national, who, while we British hid in our homes like frightened rabbits at the strong recommendation of our embassy, had been driving unmolested from end to end of the country, not to escape, but to collect information.

By the time I found out that it had been possible to leave and that British consular officials had been sent to the Saudi-Kuwait border to receive fleeing Britons those legal crossing points were closed to Westerners. Yet I had been registered with the British Embassy in order to be given information by area wardens.

After I had discovered that a group of which the embassy was aware were coordinating escape routes, the Iraqi net had tightened and we encountered road blocks and were arrested. The co-ordinators themselves were doing a brave and splendid job.

We were taken under armed escort to the Regency Palace hotel, where British nationals were being assembled for indefinite internment. I rang my area warden, who showed no interest in taking the names of our group. I have since found that even my name never reached the British Embassy. The Regency Palace, of

course, had the names and nationalities of all its "guests".

My husband here in England found out only on August 28, via an Austrian released when President Waldheim visited Baghdad, that I had been interned on the 18th. Today he received a copy of a letter from the Foreign Secretary to the Labour Foreign Affairs spokesman dealing with my case, which states:

Kirsty Norman is safe and well... She is at present staying with friends... we now know that foreign nationals in Kuwait, including 135 Britons, have been taken away to strategic locations...

This letter, dated August 28, fails to state that on the 18th nearly 100 more people had been taken to be interned, I among them. Are we as named individuals so unimportant?

On Sunday 199 of us arrived in England, carrying between us a wealth of detailed information about Kuwait, Iraq and our people there. On our arrival there was no suggestion of debriefing.

I feel a terrible despair for those left behind. Their situation is bad enough without being compounded by what my husband and I regard as British official complacency.

Yours faithfully,  
KIRSTY NORMAN,  
20 Fielding Street, SE17,  
September 4.

From Mr Ralph O. Herbert

Sir, The United Nations Security Council has imposed restrictions and sanctions against Iraq. May I suggest that negotiations and actions with regard to hostages should be left to that Council.

I can see no reason why the UN could not hire planes, coaches or indeed ships from any nation. Action by individuals or governments can only end with more division and increase the chances of conflict.

Yours sincerely,  
RALPH O. HERBERT,  
3 Fountain Court,  
Buckingham Palace Road, SW1,  
September 3.

### Cambodian economy

From Professor Meghnad Desai

Sir, James Pringle (report, September 3) may well be correct in his political assessment of the Cambodian situation, but he is hasty in his judgment on the economy when he says, apropos of economic liberalization, that "in communist Asia, it is as if changes in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe have been happening on another planet".

Having come back from a two-week visit to Cambodia at the end of July I can definitely say that for Cambodia economic liberalization started in January, 1989. This is as visible in the retail markets of Phnom Penh and Kompong Som (Siem Reap) as in the countryside which I was able to visit.

The agricultural sector is now overwhelmingly private and food procurement for domestic and export use is done by private traders as well as state agencies, the latter finding themselves at a considerable disadvantage. There is an almost uncontrolled growth of imports from hard-currency areas and extremely low rates of customs duties on most categories of imports.

For a country with 80 per cent of its labour force in agriculture the recovery of the rice output back to 1970 levels has helped stabilise the real economy. If there is a problem it is one of finding appropriate instruments of macro-economic control in an economy which has made a quick transition from a command to a mixed economy.

There is no income tax and the turnover tax, their main fiscal source, is so low that the state collects only about 2 per cent of its GNP in taxes. It spends about 5 per cent of its GDP so some fiscal

and/or monetary tightening will be needed if inflation is not to accelerate beyond the ten per cent monthly rate it has reached.

Far from being backward in perestroika, Cambodia is an indication of the problems that a country may face from rapid economic liberalization. If and when the political situation is settled there will no doubt be much more interest in learning how Cambodia tackles its economic situation.

Yours etc.,  
MEGHNAD DESAI,  
The London School of Economics and Political Science,  
Department of Economics,  
Houghton Street, WC2,  
September 4.

### Disunited kingdom?

From Mrs Diane Morgan

Sir, Whenever it is suggested that Scotland has greater authority to run her own affairs there follows a response from unionists that this would lead to a "break-up of the United Kingdom". But what United Kingdom?

During the past month I have heard and read in purportedly "national" media of "the start of the school holidays", "the A-level results" and "the August Bank holiday", as if these events, relevant only in England and Wales, had a national status.

The concept of a United Kingdom vanished long ago, if it ever existed. Compilers of dictionaries of synonyms should note that "England" and "Britain" have an identical meaning.

Yours truly,  
DIANE MORGAN  
Rose House,  
27 Rose Street, Aberdeen 1.

### Youths in custody

From the Chief Executive of the National Children's Home

Sir, You report (August 27) on proposals for local remand units for young offenders. One area of great concern must be the plight of 14-year-olds.

We must not forget that such children can still be sentenced to prison department custody. The numbers may be small (just 21 were held on June 30, 1988). But concern for 15 and 16-year-olds highlighted by your article must not allow anachronistic treatment of 14-year-olds to slip through unchallenged by reform.

The National Children's Home, as well as running exemplary alternative to custody projects around the country, will continue to remind ministers of the need to abolish prison custody for 14-year-olds in the forthcoming legislation arising from the White Paper, *Crime, Justice and Protecting the Public*.

Yours faithfully,  
TOM WHITE, Chief Executive,  
National Children's Home,  
85 Highbury Park, N5,  
September 1.

### Access to rivers

From Dr G. H. Smith

Sir, It is now clear that confusion has been caused by your report (August 1) of the recent ruling by the Court of Appeal that the 1932 Rights of Way Act applies to rivers as well as footpaths. It has proved possible to read this report as saying that any previously undisturbed river might now be invaded by craft of all kinds.

All the ruling means, in fact, is that the same standard of proof applies to highways on water as to footpaths and bridleways on land. Twenty years' use by the public

### A taste of honey

From Mr R. A. Steele

Sir, Your report (August 24) about honey provides another glaring example of how the common agricultural policy of the EC pushes up the price of everyday commodities.

No mention is made of the fact that bee farmers are already protected by a massive 27 per cent tariff added to honey imported from outside the EC; this just goes to show the pittance that must be paid to bee farmers for their produce in these Third World economies when, after paying this tariff, the price to the consumer is under what EC honey retails for.

Nature dictates that bees will only survive where they collect enough honey to supply the hives for 12 months. That being so, to spend £560 a tonne to feed them inferior sugar suggests that the production of honey should be left to efficient producers who can extract excess honey and leave enough for the bees to winter over.

I remain, yours sincerely,  
R. A. STEELE,  
9 Holt Close,  
Highgate Wood, N10.

"as of right and without interruption" is sufficient proof that the way is a highway. The landowner can negate this by showing that during this period he has erected notices or informed the local authority that he did not intend to dedicate the way.

The application of the Rights of Way Act to waterways will not result in the mass invasion of all rivers any more than the passing

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

### More flexibility in pay bargaining

From the Director-General of the CBI

Sir, Unfortunately John Edmonds's article, "Putting pay in perspective" (August 29), fails to put pay in perspective. In particular readers can be forgiven for not realising some fundamental facts about pay and performance in the UK because they were not included:

During the eighties average earnings in the UK rose by 132 per cent (and house prices by 175 per cent incidentally) while the RPI rose by 77 per cent.

Skills differentials are very much lower in the UK than in West Germany and wages for unskilled young people are much closer to those for adults. Annual investment in skills training by the private sector is running at record levels of well over £12 billion — a marked contrast with the days of training levies and compulsion for which John Edmonds evidently yearns. CBI survey suggests that far from being cut back this figure is set to increase in real terms.

Moreover, notwithstanding the current pause in growth, 1990 will see UK manufacturing output at an all-time high, along with record levels of exports and productivity. And investment is focusing on quality not price: the last CBI Innovation Trends survey showed the need to enhance quality is more than twice as important an

influence on investment intentions as the need to reduce costs.

However, this is no time to be complacent about the way pay is negotiated. The cost of reducing inflation in terms of unemployment appears to be much greater in the UK than in West Germany or the United States, never mind Japan. At present we could be in some danger of achieving the worst of both worlds: neither the local flexibility that should go with decentralised pay arrangements nor the overall control of wage increases claimed by the supporters of a national approach to pay determination.

Flexibility is the key, as John Edmonds recognises, and national wage bargains simply cannot reflect the local needs and opportunities for employers and employees alike. The trend to decentralisation of pay determination is accelerating in the private sector — this year saw the abandonment of national wage bargaining in the engineering industry for instance. It is time the public-service sector caught up rather than remaining stuck in the corporatist mud of the past.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN BANHAM,  
Director-General,  
Confederation of British Industry,  
Centre Point,  
103 New Oxford Street, WC1,  
September 3.

### Housing policies

From Mr Nevill H. Lee

Sir, The housing policies of the Labour Party are even more confused than Mr Klappholz suggests (August 28). The shadow housing minister, Mr Clive Soley, recently said that tax benefits to owner-occupiers must continue, since to end them would amount to political suicide.

The immobility of labour and over-investment by owner-occupiers to the detriment of industry are only the most obvious symptoms of the damage to the UK economy caused by these tax subsidies. Untaxed capital gains following the sale of private houses, and funds released by re-mortgaging properties that have rapidly increased in value have certainly added substantially to personal expenditure and inflation.

However, the private rented sector has expanded significantly following the Housing Act 1988 and the adherence of the Labour Party to a policy of rent control that is a proven failure prevents and will continue to prevent major long-term investment by individuals and institutions in residential property to let.

I hope that Mr Klappholz and his fellow economists can persuade Mr Soley and his colleagues that a free market in rented housing leads to personal freedom and that a genuine option to rent or purchase should be open to all.

Yours faithfully,  
N. H. LEE (Council member),  
Association of Residential  
Letting Agents,  
18-21 Jermyn Street, SW1.

### Poland's future

From Mr Roger Fox

Sir, Professor Alan Walters (article, August 29) draws depressing conclusions about both the political and economic future of Poland. Everyone, including the Poles themselves, agrees that the position of the nomenklatura remains as strong as ever. Indeed, Professor Walters understates its influence because it remains in place in the civil service, the media, academic institutions, etc. as well as in industrial management. Or, to put it another way, the structure of democratic centralism remains in place, even though the communist government was overthrown.

But should we not congratulate the Poles for the courageous and decisive steps they have taken to bring inflation down and make their currency convertible? There has been a 31 per cent fall in real incomes this year, but the economy now has real prices which can be the basis for realistic economic decisions. Overcoming 40 years of socialism was never going to be easy and we cannot expect a full-blown market economy in a mere 12 months.

So perhaps we should be more patient. We should seek to help the younger Polish managers precisely because the nomenklatura is still in place and because, in my experience, among the younger managers there are those who know what needs to be done to re-establish a free market pluralistic economy.

I fear that inadvertently the British Know-How Fund is actually helping the nomenklatura to maintain their positions of influence because we have not understood this central point.

Yours sincerely,  
ROGER FOX,  
Thames Polytechnic,  
School of Social Sciences,  
Wellington Street, Woolwich, SE17,  
August 31.

of the Act was succeeded by the throwing open of large estates to the public.

What it does do is protect the continued public enjoyment of waterways where the right of passage has no other clear statutory origin and where evidence of use from time immemorial is not available.

Yours faithfully,  
G. H. SMITH (Chairman,  
Yorkshire Derwent Trust),  
Park Gate House,  
69A Park Road,  
Guisley, Leeds, West Yorkshire,  
August 28.

### From Lord Hamilton of Dalzell

Sir, May I comment on your report (August 22) on proposed cuts in the use of hotels for the homeless and the letter from Councillor Challis (August 28).

I was one of the last directors of Rowton Hotels, a public company which managed the Rowton houses founded by Montague Currie, later Lord Rowton, Disraeli's private secretary. At the turn of the century he raised the money to build large buildings to house single men in urgent need of accommodation in London.

In the early 1980s three of these buildings were housing together about 2,000 single men in Camden, Lambeth and Tower Hamlets. Each innmate was given his own room and the price could be met from within the social security benefit. The company made a small profit.

The houses side of the company was later sold to the local authorities, with the Government providing the money to prevent closure. I believe that these hostels now provide a higher standard of accommodation for half the number of people, albeit at considerable cost to the taxpayer.

It is not a pity that Lord Rowton's vision of large-scale basic accommodation with dignity for the unhoused was abandoned, and is it surprising that the number of those sleeping in the streets has increased?

Yours faithfully,  
HAMILTON OF DALZELL,  
Betchworth House,  
Betchworth, Surrey,  
August 28.

### Church repairs

From the Secretary of the Historic Churches Preservation Trust

Sir, I never cease to be amazed at the astonishing sums congregations raise for the repair of their churches and chapels. English Heritage contributes several million pounds a year, the Historic Churches Preservation Trust and the Incorporated Church Building Society another £1 million in grants and interest-free loans and the 25 county historic churches trusts about another £1 million, but all together this amounts to only a fraction of the £50 or £60 million which it costs to keep our heritage of churches and chapels standing.

Next Saturday, however, everybody has the opportunity to help when 25,000 cyclists will be taking part, all over the country, in the county historic churches sponsored cycle ride, which has already raised £3 million and should certainly raise another £750,000 this year.

Yours sincerely,  
IAIN RADFORD, Secretary,  
Historic Churches Preservation Trust,  
Fulham Palace, SW6,  
September 4.

### Gnawed nothing

From Mr Timothy Michael James

Sir, I have a simple remedy for Mr Nicholas Baker, MP's gnawed cricket net (September 3) as I had a similar problem, not with rabbits but with hedgehogs. It is to surround the lower part of the netting with chicken wire. I have since enjoyed a whole season's use without interference from any of these delightful creatures.

Yours sincerely,  
T. JAMES,  
Westfield House, Marden, Kent,  
September 4.

### From Mr Jonathan Rule

Sir, The plight of Mr Baker's rabbit has a lesson for us all. In a free market, with perfect competition, the Government still has a duty to protect the irrational consumer.

Yours faithfully,  
JONATHAN RULE,  
Stowe Hill, Auchinleck Drive,  
Lichfield, Staffordshire.

### From Dr J. S. Madden

Sir, It was a hedgehog which cut the hole that cnemised the larger rabbit.

Yours faithfully,  
SPENCER MADDEN,  
Glendale, 87 Mill Lane,  
Upton-by-Chester, Chester,  
September 3.











## SCIENCE &amp; TECHNOLOGY

Sophisticated electronic gadgetry, capable of working faultlessly round the clock, may become the farm hands of the future, Nick Nuttall reports

## Robot milkmaids with green fingers

A herd of dairy cows in Britain is being groomed for an experiment which may take research in farming robotics a crucial step forward. Plans are afoot to create a robot milkmaid designed by researchers at the Agricultural and Food Research Council's (AFRC) Institute of Agricultural Engineering Research at West Park, Silsoe, Bedfordshire. The robot would be able to place two, possibly four, milking cups on cows' teats without the need for human hands.

Preliminary studies have shown that a robot milkmaid can, by being available round the clock, boost dairy yields by as much as 15 per cent. Cows suckle their young several times a day, so they prefer frequent, small, milkings rather than a single morning session, studies have found.

The herds soon fall into a routine of strolling into the milking parlour as the mood takes them, says Michael Moncaster, head of the institute's information engineering division.

Here they are milked by the robot and automatically checked for signs of mastitis and hormone fluctuations which may indicate the animal is on heat. At the heart of the system are sensors which can relay to the robot the exact position of the cow in a stall. A

sensor first reads an electronic tag on the cow's neckband, which is checked by a computer system that carries information on each cow, including when it was last milked. As the cups are moved towards the udders, sensors in each cup allow the robot arm to fine-tune the fitting.

The benefits to the farmer are obvious. More time can be spent caring for the cows and doing other tasks around the farm.

Vast milking parlours, which can accommodate a whole herd, become unnecessary, as just a few robots can replace the numerous man-controlled machines.

The robot milkmaid has already mastered placing one cup at a time on a cow, but if the more complicated task of placing multiple cups on teats, planned for the end of the year, can be achieved, it will be a breakthrough.

Mr Moncaster says preliminary trials indicate that the robot milkmaid is a bit with the herd because it is more sensitive than a human hand.

Meanwhile, researchers in Australia promise the introduction of a robot sheep shearer this year. They hope this can meet the growing shortfall of skilled men willing to do the back-breaking work.

In Britain, the push to develop

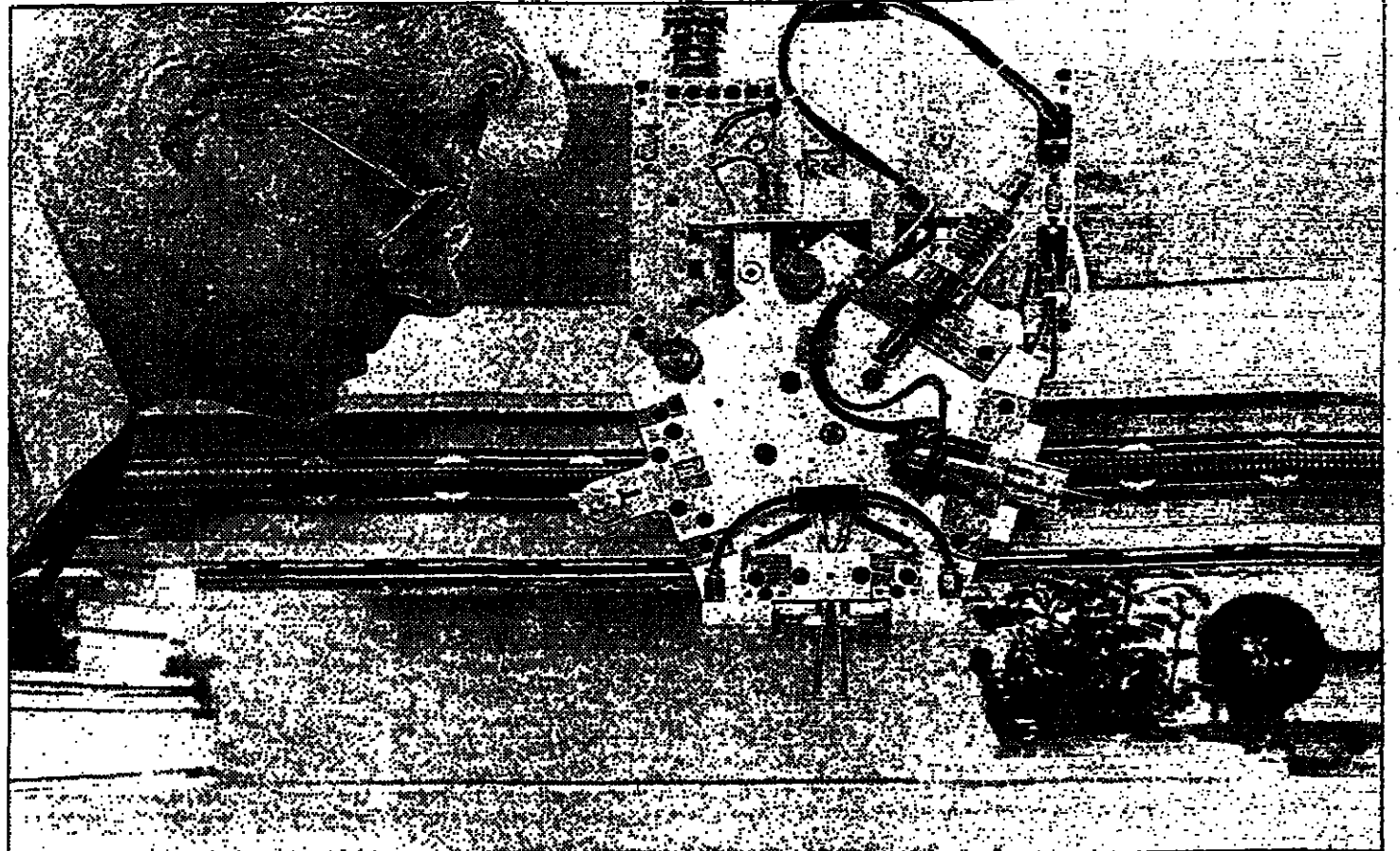
robots for farming, horticulture and food applications is centred on a committee of academic researchers and companies formed in the wake of the government's Advanced Robotics initiative, launched two years ago.

The committee, set up after a recent seminar held at AFRC Silsoe, intends to meet before the end of the year to draw up a short list of the most useful fields in which robots might be applied.

Mr Moncaster believes that the list will be headed by robotic micro-propagation. The technique relies on cutting plants, such as chrysanthemums, into small pieces at the nodes which lie between the stem and the leaves, and transplanting these cuttings into a growing medium. From a small stock, a flower farmer can rapidly build up a vast number of plants for sale in a series of three week cycles.

However, the work is labour intensive, requires hygienic conditions to ensure the plants are healthy and, ideally, needs uniform cutting and planting to maximise cost effectiveness.

"The work is currently done by people who are efficient, but they can get tired and lose concentration after about two hours, whereas a robot can run 24 hours, producing exact results under clean



Advanced robotics: Michael Moncaster with a robotic micro-propagator which will cut and plant cuttings for flower farmers

conditions," Mr Moncaster says. The institute has been developing a system for cutting plant pieces which uses imaging analysis technology, pioneered by the team for screening vegetables, to try to guide the robot to the stem node.

The team is experimenting with

neural networks, computer systems that are wired to mimic the functions of the human brain, which are connected to a robot's television camera.

A similar system may be also adapted for the more delicate and challenging job of picking mushrooms. "Mushrooms are particu-

larly interesting. They are a delicate, high value crop, grown indoors in confined conditions," Mr Moncaster says.

In the past few years, the Silsoe team has been developing a system which can identify individual mushrooms and recognise those mature enough to be picked.

Mr Moncaster says that if a robot can harvest mushrooms, it is possible that many other crops could be harvested by intelligent machines. These may now be operated by a farmer in the field but, one day, they may act autonomously or be controlled remotely from a computer.



A scientist measuring solar radiation at the North Pole

High altitude aircraft measurements have strengthened the suspicion that serious ozone depletion is occurring over the North Pole as well as the South Pole. Although an ozone hole comparable to the one detected at the South Pole has not been found, the measurements show that up to 35 per cent of ozone in air at the North Pole is lost during the Arctic winter. Previous studies indicated seasonal losses of about 12 per cent.

The measurements were made by Dr Michael Proffitt, of Colorado University, and his colleagues last winter and are reported in this week's *Nature* magazine. "If this is true, then ozone losses in the Arctic in winter are not much less than in the Antarctic spring," says Dr Alan Plumb, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

He adds, however, that the effects of the depletion are less

dramatic because Arctic ozone, unlike Antarctic ozone, is being resupplied through atmospheric circulation at about the rate at which it is being destroyed. The northern hemisphere's air movements produce a constant flux of fresh, ozone-rich air into the atmosphere of the polar vortex, the region where ozone losses are most severe. Nevertheless, the new study is likely to increase fears about the safety of atmospheric ozone in the whole northern hemisphere.

Research published earlier this year suggests that in the past 20 years Europe's ozone layer has thinned by about 3 per cent. The study may also spur efforts to develop strategies for repairing the ozone layer.

## Heading for another pole with a hole?

Airborne American scientists have found thinning in the ozone layer over the Antarctic

In recent years the ozone problem has stretched scientific ingenuity and the result is a plethora of imaginative "solutions" that veer close to science fiction. This trend continues in California, where researchers, led by Alfred Wong, of the University of California at Stanford, are to investigate whether high-powered radio waves could, in principle, be used to conserve ozone in the stratosphere.

Their experiments will be carried out in Alaska using a high-powered transmitter to send radio waves into the upper atmosphere

and a ground-based laser system to monitor their effects on ozone concentration.

Elsewhere in the United States, research into high-powered radio waves has led to a surprising discovery about the atmospheric effects of lightning. Although it has long been known that lightning bolts generate ozone in the lower atmosphere, where it serves no purpose, their effects on the upper atmosphere have been harder to discover.

Earlier this year, however, Dr Umran Inan, at Stanford, succeeded in simulating these effects

using a radio-wave transmitter. His results show that continuous transmission of very low frequency radio waves, of the kind produced momentarily by lightning, causes electron heating in the upper atmosphere by converting ozone-eating chlorine into a more benign form.

Previously, researchers had bothered to look only for signs of atmospheric heating from high-frequency radio waves.

Atmospheric ozone is depleted by chlorine atoms that are released from chlorofluorocarbon (CFC) gases by the action of ultra-violet sunlight.

A powerful radio wave passing through the upper atmosphere heats it up and generates free, fast-moving electrons. In theory, these

electrons could help to protect ozone by combining with chlorine atoms to make them unreactive.

However, even if this basic theory is found to be correct, the practical problems of using radio waves, or for that matter any other kind of electromagnetic radiation, to conserve ozone are likely to be immense.

"There is some good chemistry and physics in these experiments, but the amount of energy you would need to pump into the atmosphere to have any real effect is huge," says Dr Joe Farman, a member of the British Antarctic Survey Group, which discovered the ozone hole.

However, the cure could prove to be worse than the disease, because the amount of fossil fuel that would have to be burnt to generate that energy could increase global warming.

DAVID CONCAR

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This initiative is being taken in collaboration with the Centre for exploitation of Science and Technology. Applications are invited for the post of Head of the Centre. The successful candidate will face the challenge of building up a team of people to meet the requirements of the Centre. He/she will build up a wide commercial customer

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# Sounds like a great ding-dong

The imminent launch in Britain of the first proper digital audio tape recorder, which gives compact disc quality sound coupled with the ability to record, marks the start of a public war between the music and electronics industries and a secret war between individual groups of electronics companies.

The launch of DAT, more than three years later than planned, results from last summer's agreement between the western record companies and the Japanese electronics industry.

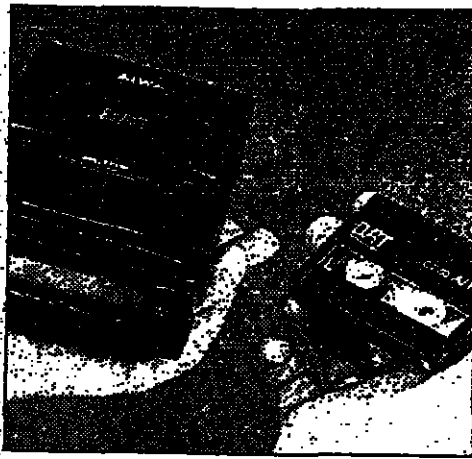
The first recorders in Britain, from Sony's subsidiary Aiwa, will be on sale next month at £500, although the price is expected to fall if a mass market develops and the recorders become integrated into a new generation of stereo systems.

The recorder, claimed by Aiwa to be the world's smallest and lightest, can be connected to a stereo for home use, will work with batteries and headphones as a personal stereo, and can be used as a car hi-fi with an attachment. It will take two-hour tapes smaller than those used in conventional cassette recorders. The tape automatically numbers record tracks during recording to give an indexing system similar to that provided by CDs.

Other Japanese companies, including JVC, Denon, Technics and Sony, will produce recorders soon after. Sony is already selling DAT recorders in the United States.

Confusion surrounds the Serial Copy Management System (SCMS), which is at the heart of all the DAT recorders due to go on sale. All the

**Barry Fox predicts a war between the music and electronics industries and a fight between the makers of a revolutionary recorder that will rival compact discs**



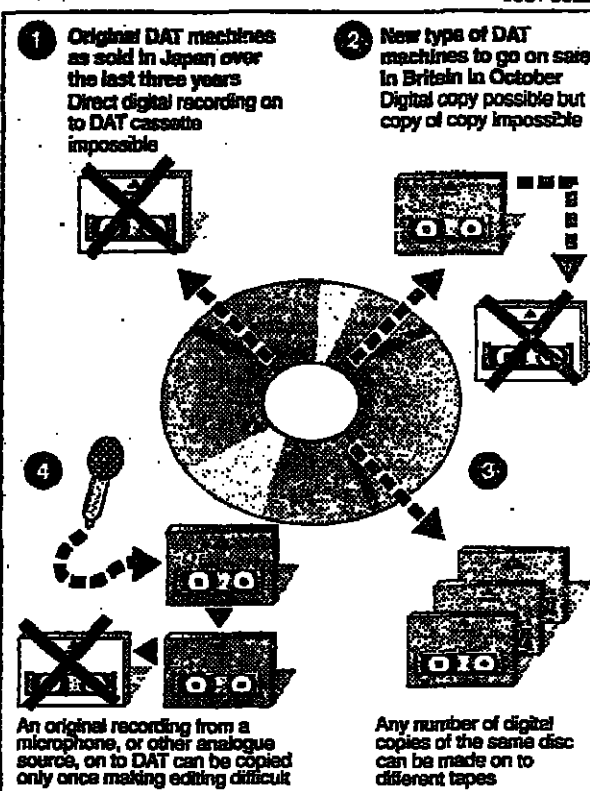
Small miracle: the hand-held digital audio tape recorder and a diagram of how recorders have progressed

signs are that the record companies did not understand the significance of the technology to which they agreed. In fact, SCMS is the same as the Solocopy system that Philips proposed to the record companies three years ago, but which they then rejected out of hand. Now, as then, SCMS/Solocopy provides only illusory protection against the digital

cloning or copying of tape copies of commercial music recordings that the record companies fear. Paradoxically, it prevents creative tape recordists from editing their own original recordings, which represent no threat to the record companies.

The first DAT recorders launched in 1987 were officially sold only in Japan, but were unofficially avail-

able as expensive "grey imports" around the world. In an extraordinarily generous move, never technically appreciated by the record companies, the Japanese manufacturers voluntarily crippled these machines to prevent digital copying, so that they sold poorly. In June 1989, the International Federation of the Phonographic



Industry (IFPI) agreed to the worldwide sale of DAT recorders that could copy digitally, provided they incorporated SCMS/Solocopy circuitry to prevent cloning, that is, copying copies. When the recorder digitally copies music from a CD on to tape, the SCMS/Solocopy circuit automatically writes an inaudible identification code into the bit stream on tape. Any other DAT recorder registers this code and refuses to copy the digital signal, so the copy tape cannot be copied.

There is, however, nothing to stop people from making several copies of a CD on to as many different tapes as they like. This takes no longer than copying tape copies. So the DAT machines now going on sale with the record companies' blessing are more of a threat to the record industry than the DAT machines they rejected. However, when a recording is made from an analogue source, such as a microphone, the circuits allow only one copy to be made.

As a result, enthusiasts will be unable to edit original recordings, of interviews or birdsong or amateur music tapes, for example, because the only way to edit digital tapes is to copy them several times, just as video tapes are edited. Sony has its own fallback product, simplified and miniaturised, known as Micro-DAT. So far, Sony talks about Micro-DAT only as a format for dictation, but the play is obvious. Micro-DAT could well be the ideal cheap and simple pocket digital audio format for the future.

## Hong Kong staff reject Britain

**Skills shortages mean vacancies exist in the colony for British IT specialists**

Expectations of an influx of high-technology staff from Hong Kong may be unfulfilled, even though the local government this week predicted 62,000 people will leave the colony during 1990.

British consultants and computer societies report little interest from Hong Kong information technology (IT) staff wanting to move to the UK because most have little difficulty in emigrating to other countries.

Large numbers of IT staff have left Hong Kong permanently, although it was originally thought that many would return once they had got a foreign passport in the handover of sovereignty to China.

Carlye Tsui, the head of the British Computer Society's Hong Kong section, says: "IT professionals are more mobile than some people of other professions because of the

global demand for their skills and because countries such as Canada and Australia have made it easy for them to immigrate. Most emigrants wanted a passport as an insurance before returning to Hong Kong. In fact, only a small number has returned."

Under the key-worker scheme, the largest number of UK passports, about 70 per cent, is to be issued as part of a general allocation scheme. These include seven broad categories: business and management, accounting, engineering, information services, medicine and science, law and education. Engineering professionals will get 10 per cent of the passports and information services staff will get a further 6 per cent.

Judy Lau, the overseas representative of the Hong Kong Computer Society, says: "The number of IT staff getting the passport would be minimal. But emigrating will be no problem because IT is a mobile skill and in demand world-wide."

The exodus is increasing, according to UK recruitment agencies that have opened offices in Hong Kong to cater

### JOBS SCENE

for the demand from IT staff wanting to find employment outside the colony. They report few requests for jobs in Britain. "The United States and Australia, in particular, offer a cosmopolitan environment and have more compatible cultures than the UK, where the Hong Kong person does not feel particularly welcome," says Tony Antoniadis, the managing director of Eurolink.

Australian companies looking for high-tech staff frequently advertise in the Hong Kong press, offering relocation and assistance in gaining citizenship as part of the package.

The high-level of emigration has led to a severe shortage of IT skills in Hong Kong, creating more opportunities for British specialists as many employers are

porting staff to fill the gap, mainly at project leader or managerial level. Many of the middle-management people have left. Mr Antoniadis says that although the gap is being filled by promotions from within, it takes time to build up these management skills, so there are many vacancies.

One advantage for any British IT specialist wanting to work in Hong Kong is that year-long work permits are issued at the airport on arrival, and English is the dominant language.

About 90 per cent of vacancies are for IBM staff, the remainder for those with experience of Digital Equipment Systems. The demand for personal computer and Unix skills is growing rapidly.

Salaries are about £1,500 a week for experienced contract analysts/programmers. Rented accommodation is expensive but salaries are increasing as the shortages worsen. Many companies are also seeking graduates with computer science degrees or diplomas.

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## MEDICAL BRIEFING Dr Thomas Stuttford

The Ministry of Defence's spokeswoman was genuinely surprised and slightly outraged when questioned about the suggestion that Iraqi soldiers had footwear better adapted for the desert than the British. She said that although she normally spoke for the army, and most of the expeditionary force were from the RAF, she would immediately have heard if there had been any trouble with feet or boots. The spokeswoman was right: boots and the army are irretrievably linked in everybody's minds. Soldiers have been taught to care for their boots (and feet) as carefully as their rifles, for a limping soldier is a liability. Down the ages, while the troops have been nurturing their boots, manufacturers have either made or lost fortunes supplying them. Wellington's armies found their boots sadly lacking in substance and efficient appealing foot troubles in consequence; so much so that in 1812 Sir Marc Isambard Brunel, the engineer and inventor (and father of Isambard Kingdom Brunel), was asked by Wellington to help. Brunel de-

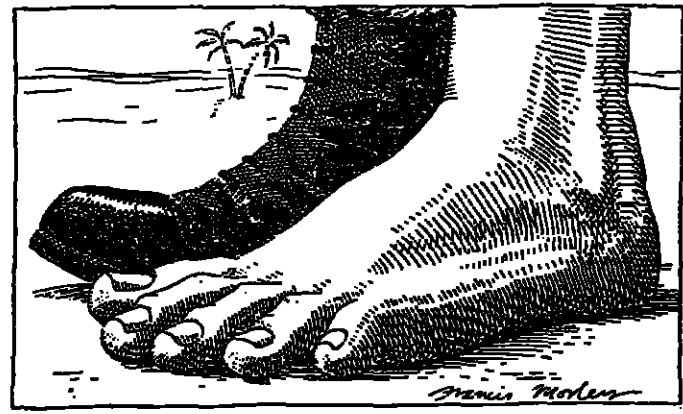
## Heavy on their feet

signed and built a machine which could turn out 400 good boots a day in any of nine different sizes, but after Waterloo the army cancelled the contract and Brunel went bankrupt. He was only prised from the King's Bench jail in Southwark by Wellington, who raised £5,000 to settle the debts. In the Falklands, cold and damp rather than heat were the problems. At the time it seemed to those who had to wear them that the British boot was less efficient than those issued to other armies at preventing trench foot, the scourge of first world war infantrymen, which had made an unwelcome comeback. Subsequently army boot design has been changed. The

specifications of an army boot are difficult to meet and sometimes contradictory: the boot has to keep the feet dry for as long as possible, but if they do become waterlogged the water should be able to drain out. In hot weather the feet have to breathe. At all times the boot must be robust enough to protect the foot from damage from dropped equipment or ammunition, and preserve it from moving machinery and vehicles.

Trench foot is technically known as damp cold injury. When afflicted the feet become numb, swollen, pale and clammy, with soggy, macerated skin. The damage may have long-term effects: even though destruction to the deep tissues is less likely than with frostbite, months later the feet may still be swollen, sweaty and painful.

Sweaty feet will be the problem in the desert too and, as in damp cold injury, the skin is soggy and macerated. Fortunately treatment for any complicating fungal or yeast skin infections, commonly known as athlete's foot or foot rot, has improved since the British army was last in the desert. Doctors have now replaced Whitehead's varnish, and various other time-hallowed powders, with the imidazole and triazole antifungals, which as well as being available in the traditional powder and cream form can also be taken by mouth (the drugs Sporox and Diflucan), sprayed on (Pevaryl) or, if the nails are infected, used as a paint (Troxyol). Modern remedies are infinitely more effective than Whitehead's, and more hygienic and safer than the folk remedy of persuading a dog to lick the infected toes.



## Strong-arm tactics

The news that the Prince of Wales had decided to have forearm surgery on his left arm in Nottingham must have been received by the hospital administrators with emotions similar to those of an Elizabethan landowner when he learnt that the monarch and her entourage were planning a visit — delight at the honour, apprehension at the cost.

Although the Prince may find it hard to believe now, he has been comparatively fortunate: fractures to the lower third of the humerus are notoriously difficult. Non-union is one of the complications which is usually amenable to treatment. Damage to the radial nerve with paralysis of the muscles of the wrist, thumb and some of the fingers might have caused permanent wrist drop and would have been much worse; better to go through life with a stiff elbow, as he will may do, than a feeble wrist. Likewise damage to the brachial artery, which can occur if the injury is just above the elbow, may so deprive the forearm muscles of nourishment that they become fibrous, and the hand contracts to a useless claw.

Plating the fracture does not always ensure subsequent union, and some can be very loath to heal, but results have been much better since the support and stability given by the plate have been supplemented by bone grafting, with tiny chips taken from the crest of the hip.

Excellent as his chief is reported to be at preparing nouvelle cuisine and vegetarian dishes, some doctors might question if it was a good idea to include him in the royal entou-

rage. The Prince, who has been a keen follower of the local hunt, is now being cared for by experienced surgeons who have looked after many hunting injuries. But most hunting people eat a rich, varied diet. High vitamin and mineral levels encourage quick healing and active bone growth, and vitamins are better absorbed by meat eaters than vegetarians. Perhaps for the next few weeks the Prince should share his hunting friends' taste in food as well as in surgeons.

## Eyes in the shade

A forehead protects the eyes, tucked away as they are beneath eaves formed by the front bones, not only from physical injury but, when the patient is upright, from the overhead rays of the sun. However, when people lie stretched out on Mediterranean beaches with their faces turned towards the sun, the eyes are no longer in the shadow of the forehead and damage may be done to the lens and the light-sensitive cells of the retina. In men additional protection is provided by a ridge of bone beneath the eyebrow, the supra-orbital ridge.

Professor John Marshall, of Moorfields eye hospital in London, has recently drawn attention to the increased hazard which would be posed to the eyes if the thinning of the ozone layer spread universally. If this happens, doctors would expect an increase in the number of cataracts, and a lowering of the age at which they cause disability. Although cataracts can now usually be treated by extraction of the opaque lens and the implantation of an artificial one, thereby sparing the patient pebble-thick spectacles, this will not save the retina from damage from ultraviolet light. Ophthalmologists would like to see people following the current fashion and wearing either panama hats or American baseball caps.

# What price a dog's life?

Can replacement hips and plastic surgery be justified for pets?  
Sally Brompton reports

Remarkable technological advances in animal surgery are causing an increasing moral dilemma for veterinary surgeons, who are being forced to decide between what they can and should do.

As medical techniques for the treatment of animals follow closely behind those used to deal with human illness, veterinary surgeons can now save and prolong their patients' lives in a way which was impossible even ten years ago.

Euthanasia, which was once the sole solution for many untreatable animal diseases, has become merely another option in the growing choice of available courses of action.

Animals can have pacemakers, artificial joints, plastic surgery, corneal grafting, chemotherapy, open-heart surgery and, theoretically, organ transplants. They can have their teeth crowned, artificial lenses implanted in their eyes and ultrasound scans for diagnostic purposes.

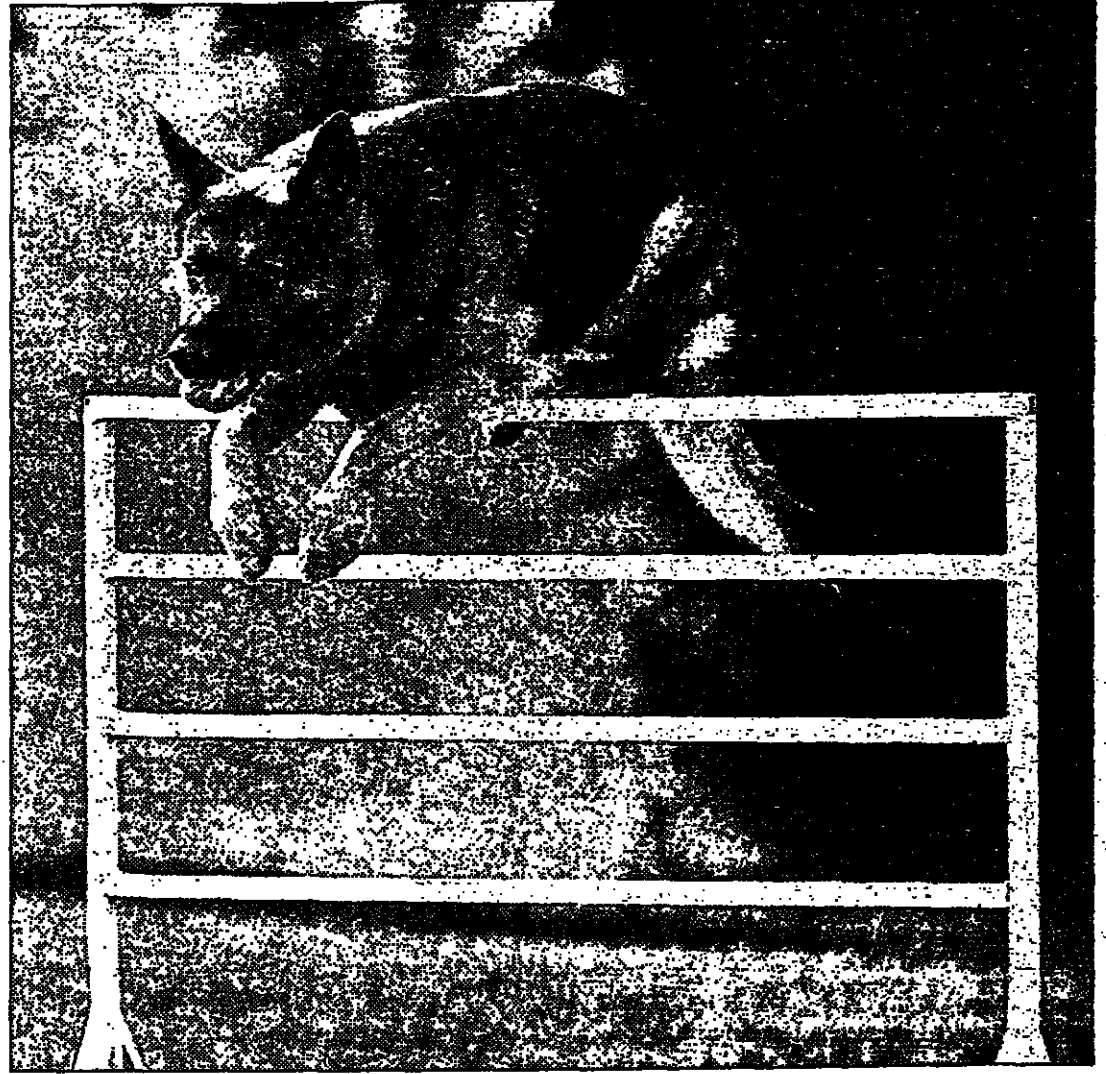
"In theory, anything which can be done on humans can be done on animals," says Gary Clayton Jones, an orthopaedic and thoracic surgeon and the director of the Queen Mother Hospital for Animals at the Royal Veterinary College, in London. "Technology has advanced to the stage where it is a matter of whether the owner can afford the treatment."

With a complicated major fracture costing up to £1,000 to repair, it is understandable that many pet owners think twice before deciding to go ahead with an operation.

"I am quite prepared to admit that we are part of a leisure industry in a sense and the way in which people spend their money on their pets is not for me to judge," says Dr Peter Darke, the senior lecturer at Edinburgh University's veterinary clinical studies department. "The other side of the coin is that if you are not advancing and trying new techniques, you stagnate."

Growing public demand for new and better medical treatment for pets is also creating technological advance. "Members of the public look at television and see people having renal and heart transplants and want to know why they can't have them for their animals," says Dr Dick White, the lecturer in small animal soft tissue surgery at Cambridge University's veterinary school.

The cost of treatment is clearly an important factor. Even so, according to Bradley Viner, a veterinary surgeon and the information officer of the British Veterinary Association: "There are conditions that will not get better no matter what you spend on them — otherwise rich people wouldn't die." The bill for treatment is frequently based on the



Improving by leaps and bounds: Seb, the police dog, after his operation to have artificial hip joints

value of the animal involved — surgery to a racehorse will cost far more than the same operation on a family back. And the increased expectation of owners has resulted in a steep rise in cases of alleged medical negligence, with 700 claims expected this year, compared with 175 in 1980.

Mr Viner treats a variety of animal species at his practice in north London, including crocodiles, snakes, lizards, fish, hamsters and guinea pigs. He regularly carries out dental work on rabbits and recently amputated the leg of a gerbil which had been mangled in a wheel. "A much wider range of operations is being done in general practice," he says.

Mr Clayton Jones thinks it unlikely that anyone would carry out an operation for other than entirely justifiable reasons. "Obviously, there is interest if a new technique comes along, but I don't think there are people who would give treatment for the interest in doing it," he says.

Among the operations which most veterinary surgeons refuse to undertake on ethical grounds are cosmetic surgery — particularly those operations involving hereditary defects, and frequently including docking dogs' tails — and declawing cats. Organ transplants are also rare because of the ethical problems involved in finding a donor animal.

As well as the high cost of modern medical technology, there is the additional factor of whether the treatment is in the best inter-

ests of the animal. Veterinary surgeons are confronted with the problem of whether the results justify the means. "There are people who will go to almost any lengths to save their pet's lives but then we run into the ethics of whether it is fair to maintain a dog on 25 per cent of its previous efficiency to keep its owner happy," Mr Clayton Jones says.

"The decision about whether or not to go to surgery is always entirely the client's," Dr White says. "But the overriding consideration has to be the welfare of the patient and not the whim of the client. The question is whether treatment is going to add to the animal's quality of life and nowhere is that more true than dealing with cancer patients. Unlike humans, it is a matter of the quality of life and not simply maintaining life."

The age of the animal is not always relevant. Dr Darke fitted a pacemaker costing about £400 in a 13-year-old Pekingese which then lived for another two or three years. He says: "I would happily consider doing surgery knowing the dog only had six months left to live if it would improve the quality of its life."

There are, however, occasions when the veterinary surgeon is confronted with a situation where the owner's life is irrevocably entwined with that of the pet. "We get some heartbreaking cases with old ladies, or where a pet is the

family's only link with a child who has died," Dr White says. "The only rule is that you do your best — but the quality of life of the animal must still apply."

A police dog in Northamptonshire named Seb, a German shepherd, now aged three-and-a-half, was the first working dog in Britain to have artificial hip joints. He had operations on both his back hips. His handler, PC Brian Coe, aged 35, says that Seb "is now better than ever". Without the operation, Seb would have had to be put down because, as a working dog, he would not have been suitable as a household pet. Mr Clayton Jones and his team carried out the treatment without charge, but even the usual fee of £800 for each operation would have been less than the cost of buying and training a new police dog, which can be £10,000.

The moral question raised by the expending of so much skill, money and technology on animals is one with which most veterinary surgeons are familiar. "We are confusing two issues here," Dr White says. "The first is 'Is wealth fairly distributed?' The answer is that it is not. But that is a function of the politicians, not the veterinary profession."

"The other issue is 'Should we be treating animals at all?' Since we maintain them in a very artificial environment for our own needs and pleasures, we have a responsibility to look after them. The answer is to do the best possible job you can."

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## On the trail of a killer

A couple's grief over the loss of a baby has led to a breakthrough by genetic researchers

Five years ago, Anita and Ken Macaulay celebrated the birth of their baby daughter, Jennifer. Their joy turned to grief when Jennifer was diagnosed as having spinal muscular atrophy (SMA).

SMA affects the nerve cells in the spine which pass messages from the brain to the body's muscles. Although children who suffer from a mild form of this crippling disease may survive into adulthood, those severely affected rarely reach their second birthday. Jennifer died when she was seven months old.

The Macaulays were told that the chances of a couple having a baby with SMA were "one in a million", as both parents had to be carriers of the affected gene.

Even so, the knowledge that there was a one in four chance that future children would suffer from the condition led Mrs Macaulay to find other parents for mutual support and to share information. This step had far-reaching consequences.

"At the time, I understood there were only three or four other families like us. So I wrote to all the baby magazines saying I wanted to start a support group," she says.

Now the Jennifer Trust for Spinal Muscular Atrophy has more than 400 members. Far from being rare, SMA was found to be, after cystic fibrosis, the most common genetic cause of infant death. About one in 60 people carries the gene. As a result, a research project was established, and in April this year scientists located the gene which causes SMA. This weekend the researchers who made the breakthrough will be addressing the trust's annual international conference at Stratford-upon-Avon.

Mrs Macaulay says: "Once you know where the gene is, you can test for it at six to seven weeks of pregnancy to predict whether a baby will have the disease. We also hope that the next stage will be in vitro testing, followed by pre-embryo implantation."

She adds: "We want another baby. We want to wait and see what happens in the light of current developments. At 33, I still have time."

LEE RODWELL

● The Jennifer Trust for Spinal Muscular Atrophy can be contacted at 11 Ash Tree Close, Wotton, Warwick CV35 9SL (0789 842377).

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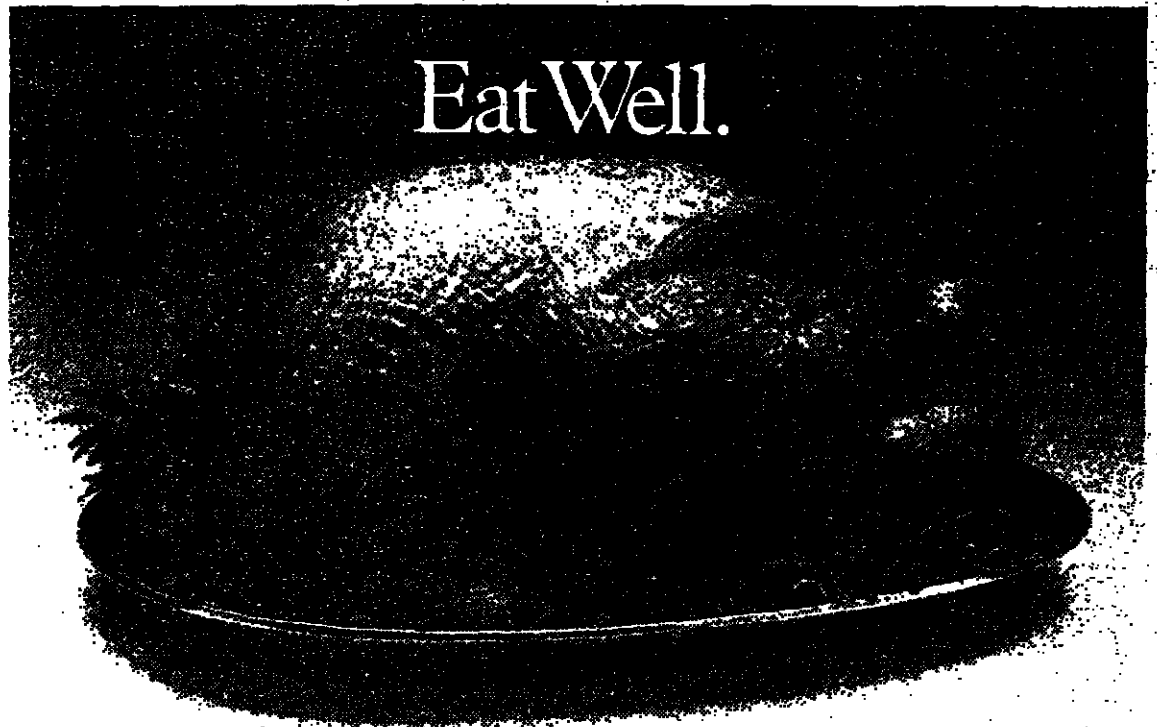
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# When it's good to learn the hard way

Starting college can be traumatic. For most students it means living away from home for the first time and organising their own budget and study time. John O'Leary, *The Times* higher education correspondent, offers some advice

Going to college for the first time is a milestone in the life of most students. They will be new challenges, new friends and, most of all, a new way of life. In spite of the growing number of older students and others who choose a course at their local institution, the majority of starters in higher education will be living away from home for the first time. Even those who have been to boarding school will find the freedom of life as a student a very different experience. The most confident "freshers" are bound to feel some anxiety about such a transformation in lifestyle. Universities, polytechnics and colleges are accustomed to dealing with the problems of adjustment facing their new charges. Depending on the size and type of institution, there will be a variety of bodies to help students settle in, from reception committees and student unions to tutors, hall wardens or landladies and, most importantly, the many others who are in the same boat. If they fail, there will be a network of health and welfare services to turn to, some run by students and others by professionals. There is nothing much anyone can do to ward off homesickness, apart from keeping in regular contact with family and friends,

but a little planning in accommodation, finance and even study methods can save a lot of heartache later.

In particular, it is essential to sort out accommodation as soon as possible. The housing position at the start of the academic year has been worsening in recent years as student numbers have outpaced facilities, and large numbers of students have been forced to live temporarily in holiday camps or campus caravans.

This autumn all the indications are that there will be many more students in the universities — perhaps an extra 20,000 — and the polytechnics and colleges are likely to increase their intakes again. Most institutions give priority to first-year students, but few have enough accommodation to go round. An early visit to the accommodation office and, if necessary, other agencies is advisable where there is no guarantee of a place.

Self-catering flats are the current favourite among students, but the social life associated with halls of residence is usually thought to offer a big advantage for new arrivals. Days are even making something of a comeback and may be the best option for those who think they will miss a family atmosphere. In some towns and cities, however, it will be a matter of taking the best you can find and

looking out for a better move later in the year.

Personal finance is another obvious area for some pre-planning. It is worth shopping around for the best banking deal and no student should start a course without a chat with a bank manager. Credit is widely available to students and, with their sources of income strictly limited, can cause difficulties if it is not handled sensibly. Financial worries can lead to academic failure and it is all too easy to end up on a credit blacklist that can mean serious trouble in later life.

This is not to say that students should avoid overdrafts. Few manage without one at some stage in their campus career. That time may even arrive straight away if you are the victim of one of the regular delays in the administration of student grants. The Surrey education department has already given warning that it has a backlog of 12,000 grant applications and has appealed to students not to telephone if they have not been notified yet. It is likely to be the first of several such warnings. Students should not panic, but make arrangements with their parents where possible or try a bank or building society. Study skills are also worth thinking about before a course



Coping with a new lifestyle: Joanne Russell (left) talks to Sue Mead, a student counsellor at King's College, Surrey Street, London

starts. Usually there will be no need for more than the broadest reading on your chosen subject. There will be plenty of time to get to grips with content later, but it is easy to fall behind by failing to adapt to the freedom offered by further and higher education. Independent study, the use of libraries, disciplined reading and time management are important skills that may not have been

required at school. Arts and social science students are likely to have more free time than they are used to, while science and engineering students may be taxed by an unfamiliar pressure of work. Other subjects on which parents or friends may want to offer advice are more delicate. Student life is not all sex and drugs and rock 'n' roll, but it would be naive to pretend that it will be a

sheltered existence. Many families will have tackled contraception, drugs and alcohol well before this, but it may be too late if it is left beyond the start of college. Usually, however, the survival skills required are simply those dictated by a life away from home: basic things such as simple cookery, operating a washing machine and ironing. A checklist for going away to college might include a

straightforward cookery book for those in self-catering accommodation and the obvious toiletries and stationery. There is no point in loading down with items that are just as easily bought on or near campus, although a few stamps and a Phonocard might just act as a reminder that the anxieties that are usually so short-lived for the student may linger a little longer at home.

## Facing change

Help and advice from many sources are readily available for students with academic or personal problems

FRESHER BLUES is a well-known phenomenon. Not every student will find life in higher education difficult and will sail through with ease, but most experience some problems settling down, however slight. Being forewarned may make freshers feel less anxious when it happens, and it helps to know that others are in the same boat. Even those students who appear mature and confident may be feeling nervous.

Leaving home, school and friends to begin a new life is the biggest transition many people have had to make since starting secondary school. They may not have formed any new friendships for some time and even those who think they are particularly independent can be homesick. The first evening in digs or hall can be lonely, but as soon as lectures begin and clubs and societies hold their first meetings, opportunities arise to meet people and make friends.

Another problem often encountered in the first term is money and how to manage it. Every student, whatever the size of their grant or allowance, needs to be able to budget properly. Apart from advice from parents, low-cost student survival guides, available in most book shops, would be a great help. The main change for students is methods of study. Tutorials, with their requirement for student participation, and large formal lectures can come as a shock, although this varies according to the teaching methods students are accustomed to.

Alex Coren, of King's College counselling service in London, estimates that almost half of new students will have study-related difficulties half-way through the first term.

He says: "It may be that the impetus of A-level work has worn off, the difference in the amount of teacher attention received at school and university, or lack of immediate motivation. The goal of getting here has been achieved and the next one, getting a degree, seems a long way off."

Again, there are solutions. Students often get help first from informal networks. Friends can assist by discussing work and comparing notes taken during lectures, which is often an unfamiliar process. There are more formal methods of assistance available. It is quite common for institutions to hold study skills sessions for those with difficulties in adjusting to college methods. These are widely advertised, or they are mentioned by a tutor.

Some people go off the rails at the beginning. The unaccustomed freedom and the week containing few compulsory lectures can go to students' heads. However, it becomes a problem only if it goes on too long. One of the most valuable experiences in higher education is learning how to

manage time and this is a skill which employers of graduates rate highly.

If problems persist, there are "official" sources of help, provided by the institutions and by students through the students' union. The union usually has a welfare section, which gives advice on grants, loans, accommodation costs, welfare benefits and legal matters. It can also refer students to the appropriate expert for further help. Many campuses run a nightline telephone help service provided by students, for students. Anything can be discussed in confidence in the small hours, when morale is sometimes low.

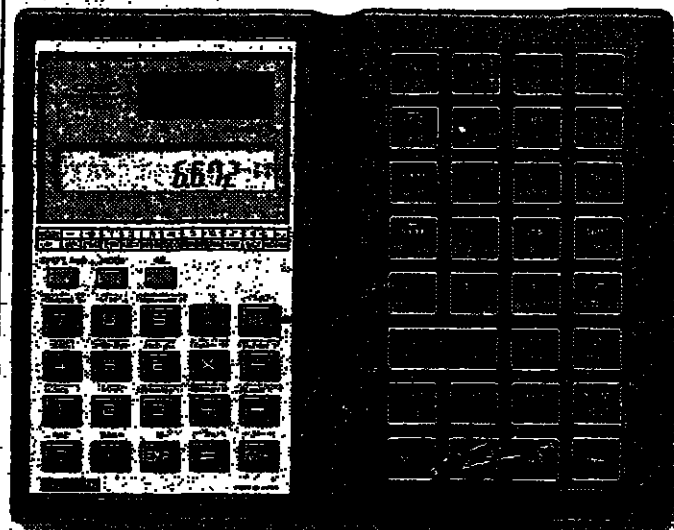
On the staff side, chaplains of all denominations visit regularly and are available to give advice, while doctors at college health centres not only take care of students' health, but are invariably good listeners, accustomed to dealing with all kinds of problems. The first point of contact for most students with a problem is the personal tutor, a member of the academic staff who is expected to keep an eye on students' work and to be available to help with any personal difficulties. Some good relationships are formed and tutors can be invaluable sources of help, as they are often the first to notice that something is wrong. Frequently, students present themselves to discuss an academic problem and end up discussing other problems. Some tutors are not naturalists in this role and this is where trained counsellors come in. Often found in the student services or medical centres, full-time staff are ready to discuss any kind of problem, from simple homesickness to something deeper.

At King's College, London, there is a team of counsellors based at the medical centre. Sue Mead, the student adviser, is often the first point of call. "My door is always open," she says, "and I may have a different caller every ten minutes. I get queries on grants, finance, accommodation, getting around London — all sorts of things."

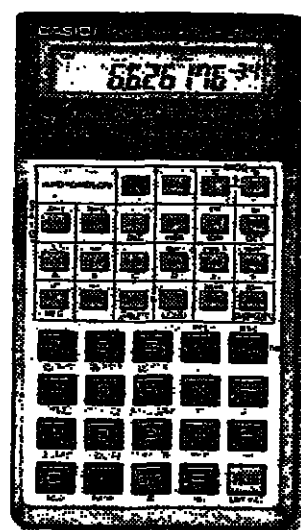
For more in-depth counselling, there are two qualified psychotherapists. Mr Coren explains: "We encourage students to come forward with anything that is worrying them. Some are shocked by the transition to university life, some are worried because it is not what they expected, others may experience difficulties in personal relationships. It doesn't matter. Everything is dealt with in confidence."

To ensure that nobody with any worries slips through the net, one of the team explains the service briefly to all new students during course time, and all personal tutors at King's receive a handbook from the counselling service.

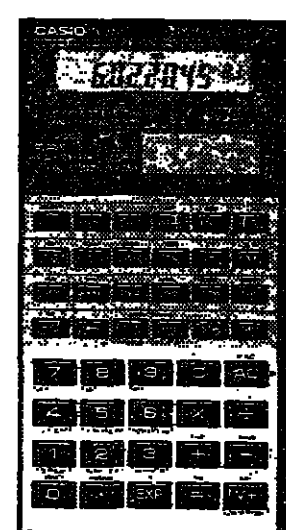
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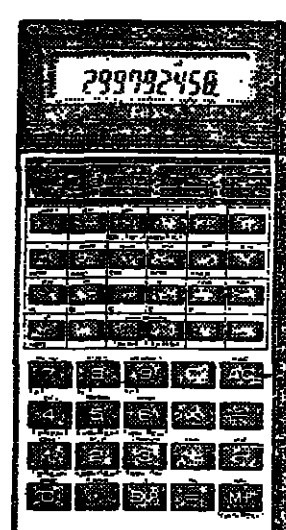
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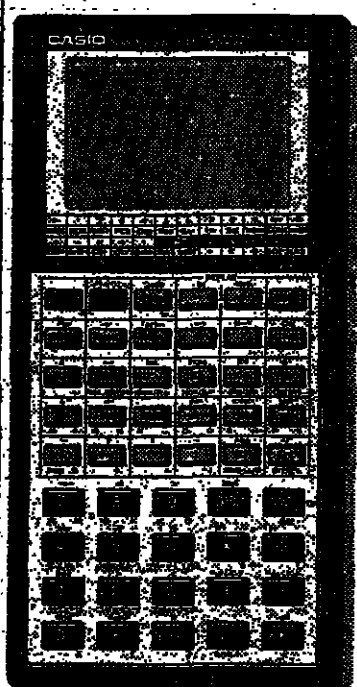
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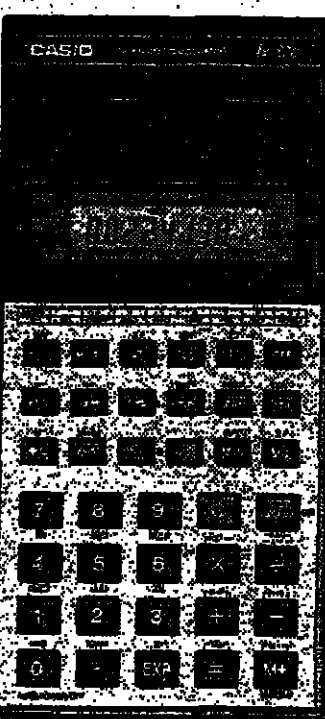
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Institutions in the north are becoming more popular as accommodation costs become a determining factor in choosing where to study. Beryl Dixon writes

## Placing a ceiling on student rents

The rising cost of accommodation means that students are having to take into consideration when choosing where to study. Tim Walker, of the National Union of Students, says: "Students are going to have to become more financially wary."

Applications to institutions in towns regarded as low cost rose dramatically this year, with most northern universities and colleges receiving particularly high numbers. A survey by Leeds Polytechnic published in June showed that Leeds had a 13 per cent increase, while further north applications to Teesside increased by 69 per cent.

According to Mr Walker, the differentials will widen as students begin to feel the effects of two pieces of government legislation. Until this year students were entitled to housing benefit. This meant that those renting private accommodation in London, where average prices for 1990-91 are expected to be between £50 and £60 weekly, were cushioned by being able to claim a rebate on rents of more than £29.

This is the first full year to see the effects of the 1988 Housing Act on the deregulation of rents. Students will now be in competition with other tenants for accommodation, the price of which may well increase.

Some towns are more expensive than others. London is, naturally, and grants are slightly higher as a result. However, college accommodation officers in southern England and Wales, where costs have also risen, feel aggrieved that their students do not receive similarly weighted grants.

There are surprising pockets where regional differences do not

apply. It is not possible to draw a line, say, from the Severn to the Wash, and assume that all areas north or south of that are equally expensive. In Brighton, students pay an average of £40 per week for private rented accommodation exclusive of bills; in the south-west outskirts of London, where there are three large colleges, £35; in Bournemouth, £35 upwards; in Bristol, £30-£35; but in Southampton, £28.

"We dread being rated a 'southern university'," Marion Lowe, of Southampton, says. "We can find plenty of reasonably priced places

**'Some parents who have the means are buying properties as an investment and as somewhere for a student son or daughter to live'**

and our poll tax, something else students must take into account, is low."

In Birmingham and Nottingham private-sector rents are £25-£30 and £26 respectively, while Edinburgh students can expect to pay £30 and Manchester university suggests that students should aim for £28.

Students living in private accommodation are at the mercy of local prices. Those living in a hall of residence will find that charges there also vary considerably, and this time geography is

not the deciding factor. Students with a single room in hall with meals provided can find themselves paying weekly charges of £36.30 at University College London, £33.80 in Bristol, £41.30 in Edinburgh, £45.44 in Portsmouth, £49.16 in Nottingham, and £47.50 in Manchester. Southampton charges £42.85 and the West London Institute is able to charge only £36.25, although with fewer meals included.

Prices largely depend on how much accommodation the institution was able to buy before property prices increased, or by how much it is able to subsidise costs. Most students want to live in hall in the first year, and parents are usually happier if they do so, knowing that food is provided, fuel bills are included and the rooms are generally of a good standard. If possible, it does make sense to opt for a hall place. It makes the transition from leaving home easier and is a good place to make friends.

Most universities and colleges guarantee hall places to all first-year students. Polytechnics, which with one or two exceptions are not able to house all first years, give them priority.

Some students do not wish to live in hall at all: many want to move out in the second year when they have found their feet and made friends with whom they would like to share a flat or house.

There is an alternative to the private rental sector in that a lot of institutions now own self-catering accommodation, either purpose-built or converted, which is let to students at much lower rents than are asked for privately. These can be ideal, but are often at a premium. Rents vary around Britain, starting at £18.70 (Leeds),



Shopping around: the cost of living in halls varies from institution to institution, often depending on how many rooms are available

with an average of £20-25, and are usually about two-thirds of the cost of private flats.

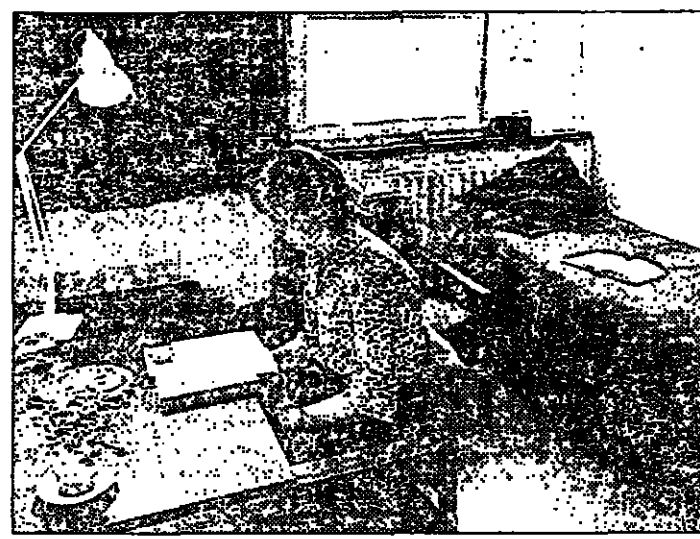
Costs need to be compared carefully, just as in the private sector. Some include heat and fuel; some charge rent in term time only while others expect a vacation renter.

Two alternatives remain. The first is bed and breakfast accommodation or bed, breakfast and evening meal - usually with a private family; sometimes, particularly in holiday resorts, small guest houses are glad to take students out of season.

In some towns where students cannot be guaranteed more than one year in college-owned accommodation, parents with the means are buying properties as an investment and as somewhere for a

student son or daughter to live, with friends as tenants. This solution is not within everyone's reach and local housing prices fluctuate. However, students are notoriously unconcerned about living in smart areas, so that even in an expensive town, such as Bristol, a three-bedroomed house three miles from the university can be bought for £35,000.

The going rate for a house in a "typical student area" suitable for three or four students to share in Manchester and Leicester is about £30,000; in Nottingham or Southampton £47-50,000; and in Brighton £65,000 upwards. Parents of Hull students could get a bargain. The university accommodation office says "very few do this, but a five-roomed house can be got for £15-20,000".



## Learning to juggle the ever-tightening budget

The loss of housing benefit and the downgrading of grants are forcing students to live even more frugally than before

Student finance, which once meant the straightforward, difficult matter of making ends meet on a student grant, has become a complex and daunting subject in the past few years.

Only a handful could have failed to be aware of the big change taking place this year: the introduction of student loans. However, behind that is the loss of housing benefit and some other welfare entitlements, balanced only slightly by a plethora of offers from the banks and building societies. Add in the community charge and the result can be confusion and depression.

The only simple conclusion is that a student will have to live a frugal life to make ends meet. The education department has long since given up pretending that even the maximum student grant is sufficient to cover living expenses for the entire year.

This year's full grant is worth £2,265 for those living away from home and outside London, £2,845 in the capital and £1,795 for home-based students. Local authorities may pay only the home rate to those, other than married students and people assessed independently of their parents, whose home is within daily travelling distance of their place of study.

Many students will not qualify for a grant at all, either because they are on courses that are not "designated" or because their parents earn too much. But all degrees, except those from the Business and Technician Education Council, initial teacher-training courses and some other diplomas do attract mandatory awards, as well as carrying an entitlement to one of the new loans.

Students on other courses may be lucky enough to get a discretionary award from their local education authority, but these have been in short supply in recent years. They may take into account examination results and carry the requirement that the recipient studies locally if a suitable course is available.

Most people starting a course in the coming term should know by now if they are eligible for a mandatory grant and how much they are to receive. Some education authorities are still dealing with a backlog of applications and there are always delays, giving the unlucky victims an early experience of a financial crisis. However, the delays should be relatively short-lived and easily dealt with, although that will be little immediate consolation to those who have not been able to make standby arrangements with parents or banks.

Banks and building societies compete fiercely for student accounts, not because they are likely to have any

money during their studies, but because they are often high earners in later life. Their withdrawal from the government's student loans scheme illustrates this competition; all the main banks pulled out as soon as Lloyds did for fear of losing potential customers.

As a result, students now have access to a variety of loans at rates that are the envy of other borrowers, although still not quite the same as grants. Five of the eight leading banks - Lloyds, Midland, NatWest, TSB and the Royal Bank of Scotland - are offering interest-free overdrafts of up to £300, beating the index-linked rates of the government scheme.

Repayment rates in the government scheme will be set annually at the official rate of inflation for the previous year. Graduates will have signed a direct debiting mandate when they took out the loan and will begin paying back in the April after completing a course. Repayments will be deferred only if a graduate's gross salary falls below a set figure, which this year would have stood at £965 per month.

Students will be able to borrow up to £460 a year in London and £420 elsewhere in Britain, with lower maxima for those living at home and for final-year students, who will be offered between £90 and £120 to allow for the absence of a summer vacation. Applicants will need a bank or building society account because payments will be made by electronic transfer, and will have their eligibility certified by the college. Once all the forms have been completed, the Student Loans Company expects to produce the money, in a lump sum or in up to three instalments, within three weeks.

Even the National Union of Students, which remains strongly opposed to loans, recognises that its members are likely to take advantage of the scheme in large numbers. The government is expecting 85 per cent of those eligible to do so, but the union is anxious about the effect of withdrawing housing benefit, which had become a vital ingredient in the student economy, especially in London.

The community charge, too, is a new burden, even at the student rate of 20 per cent. Obtaining the student concession requires registration with the community charge registration office.

For those who find themselves in real difficulties, there are some official sources of help. Accompanying the new loans will be access funds for those who lose more in benefits than they can borrow and those in further education or on postgraduate courses, who are not eligible for loans. The funds are being allocated to universities, polytechnics and colleges to administer.

In addition, local authorities can pay up to £33.50 per week in hardship payments during vacations as well as the standard weekly supplements to mandatory awards for courses lasting more than 30 weeks a year. Anything over 45 weeks entitles the student to an extra grant for the whole year.

Some students manage to hold down a part-time job during term; others could not cope with coursework in such circumstances. Many students earn extra money in the vacations; others cannot because of the demands of their course or the lack of temporary work in certain parts of Britain. It is a matter of seeking out the best advice and muddling through.

JOHN O'LEARY

### STUDENT LOAN REPAYMENTS

Figures apply to courses starting 1990-91

Length of course	Loan before repayment	No. monthly instalments	Monthly instalments start	Repayments start
3 years	£1,995	60	£30	April 1994
4 years	£2,505	80	£30	April 1995
5 years	£3,450	84	£45	April 1996

Source: DES

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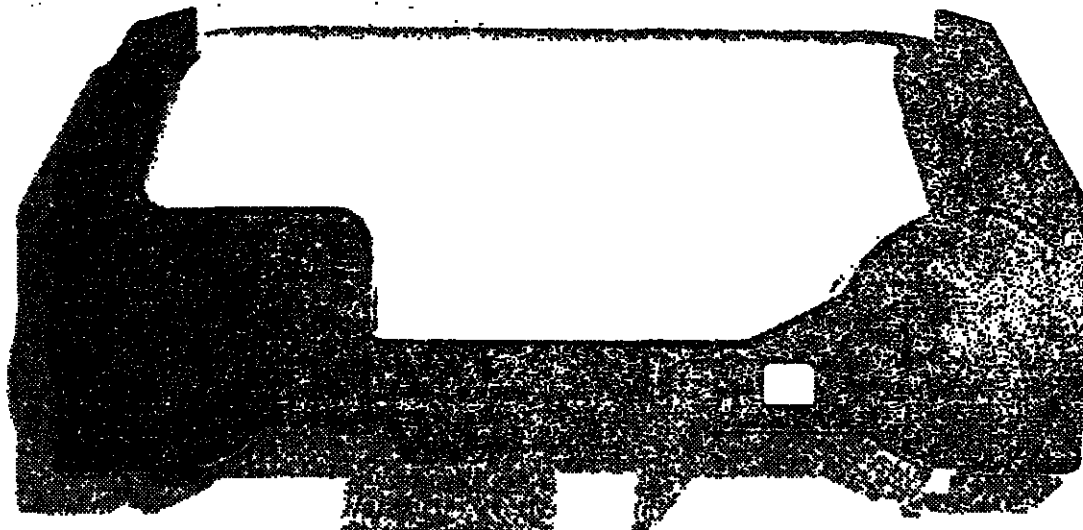
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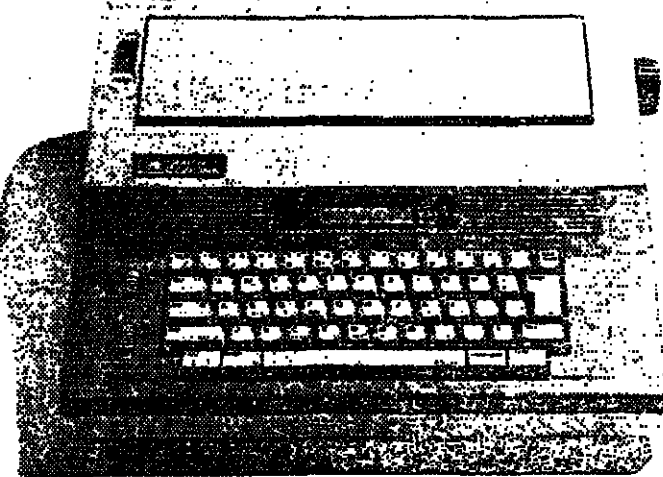
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## On the scruff side of intelligence

INSIDE a duff cover and behind the so-so title lurks a superior thriller and another innings for Harry Seddall. Seddall belongs to a distinguished line of maverick intelligence officers, a bit of Hannay, a bit of Bond, a bit of Harry Palmer; but mostly is his own scruffy man. Here he is embroiled in a Whitehall shake-up and a plot to discredit him: an impressive caravan of pursuers and pursued – including a Nazi war criminal and First XI hit-men – descend on Seddall's West Country home for a final shoot-out. Earlier committee in-fighting and drop-shot dialogue make for sophisticated prevarication. Mayo writes in praise of older women provides a strong supporting cast (down to rude waiters), and shakes up stale formulas – violence with a double twist is a speciality. As sardonic as early Fleming, and better written. *Alpha minus.*

● With Rascal Money (*Headline, £12.95, paperback, £7.99*) Joseph R. Garber offers a seemingly hard-headed business thriller, which is in fact soft-centred. Characters of intimidating appearance turn out to be like their office equipment, user-friendly: the good guys, anyway; they being the executives of PegaSys Inc, a huge computer company threatened with takeover by a ramshackle outfit run by the delightfully incompetent Shaway, fronting for a menacing Japanese conglomerate. Beneath a seductive high-tech gloss, lurks that old Sax Rohmer xenophobia. This much one character has at least the grace to admit: "Yeah, fu Manchu. Fiendish archcriminals. Sinister masterminds. A nefarious international conspiracy to keep me from going home to my Thanksgiving dinner." As for the PegaSys crew, are not so many acceptable faces of capitalism too much of a good thing? Pluses include instructive lessons on business dealings. More a matter of taste is the hyper writing that fingers the author for a jogger, a prose fitness freak, liable to fatigue sedentary readers. *Beta plus.*

● Hijack a tanker with arms bound for Iran, stir in reprisal terrorist kidnappings and much political chicanery, then drop a reliable ex-SAS major turned sec-

### THRILLERS

Chris Pett

CRY HAVOC  
By J. K. Mayo  
Collins Harvill, £12.95

urity agent in the middle to clear up. Terence Strong belongs to the action-man school of writing, backed up by hands-on research, here into the splintered world of Middle East extremist factions and in particular the Sons of Heaven (*Hodder & Stoughton, £13.95*), secret sword of Islam. Strong earns marks for a willingness to take on difficult homework – the dense subject of Islamic fanaticism – avoided by most thriller writers. But execution is padded sub-Fleming. *Beta minus.*

● Challenge by Warwick Collins (*Pan, £12.95*) culminates with the Soviets racing the US for the America's Cup in the year 2000, a political duel and a routine challenge that lets the author indulge his manifest obsession for sailing. While Warwick Collins doesn't manage to do for boats what Walter Tevis did for chess in *The Queen's Gambit* and make it compulsive to the uninitiated, his first half – a biography of the early sailing days of the US team leader – offers agreeably readable rites-of-passage stuff – virginities lost, character-building rivalries bonding into lifelong friendships, fights picked, and much briny tang. Deck-shoe wearers probably will enjoy the technical detail. *Beta.*

● Access to the files of a Swiss bank gains Rollo Naisby a nice little career in Eminent Persons by Wilfred Greatorex (*Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £13*). Various public figures with financial skeletons are persuaded to invest \$2 million each in Naisby's Cayman Island stash. Neatly set up thus, neither author nor the feckless Naisby seem sure what to do. Officials and heavies dispatched to gee up the plot are too faceless to register. Coppers come in shades of grey, toughs dispensing routine violence remain shadowy, and Naisby's charm fails to increase at the rate of his bank account. *Beta.*

## Victoria Glendinning on the talk, and talk, of our New York Jewish Narcissus

This book will be of interest to anyone who is interested in Philip Roth, and that's a lot of people, if only because *Portnoy's Complaint* changed the face (though the face wasn't the part of the body it featured) of the Jewish comic novel, and administered the authentic electric shock of the new. But Philip Roth can hardly be of greater interest to any of his readers than he is to himself.

Americans are much more tender towards the ego than we are. The British tend to see the ego as something that must be held in check for the soul's good and out of consideration for others; and a swollen ego is a case for treatment. Americans tend to nurture the ego as if it were each man's entry for a giant leek competition. Philip Roth has a prize-winning leek, even when it's passed off as some other leek, i.e. his alter ego.

The root idea in this book, which is one that runs through everything Roth has written recently, is the ambiguous relationship between his fiction and the raw experience out of which it is made. *Deception* is written entirely in dialogue. This poses the problem of knowing who is saying what, since there is never a "he said" or a "she said", and in some sections you get confused and have to work backwards and forwards muttering "him – her – him – her –" till you reach a clue.

Since the male speaker is American (and a Jewish novelist, called Philip), and the main female speaker is English, this difficulty does not augur well for Philip Roth's grasp of idiom. Philip's English mistress uses the phrase "a walk-up flat" to describe his work-place in Notting Hill. Yet Philip in the novel describes himself as a listener, or rather, "I'm an *écouteur* – an audiophilic. I'm a talk fetishist."

The real deception of the novel is that it's about anyone other than Philip. He likes the woman to talk about him, and her unsatisfactory marriage, and the way she feels about their affair. There is some four-letter-word talk to convey that talking is not all they do. Sometimes they play "reality shift", and she pretends to be a stranger examining him about the nasty attitudes to women he displays in his novels. He com-



Philip Roth, on Philip's complaint, the solipsistic impersonation of the author as himself, and the self-importance of being Philip

plains to her about his "cultural displacement" in England, and the nasty attitudes of the English to Jews and Americans – with a sharp and funny bit about the table-talk of literary left-wingers at smart dinner-parties. Somewhere in here there is a potentially good novel about what Philip calls "cultural displacement", but it can't get out into the open, because he never leaves the Notting Hill room.

The English lady is not his only visitor. There is a Polish one, and a Czech one, and since we can't know who on earth they are unless they tell us, they make stilted statements like, "I am Czechoslovakian girl, graduate of Russian

literature. I emigrated in USA in 1968 after the Russian tanks come." (Several paragraphs later she is talking correct English. Either Roth has cloth ears or he is lazy.)

There is also an old flame in America to whom Philip talks on the telephone. She has cancer. Maybe that's because she has already figured in his fiction. All his women go straight into his novels and all are damaged. The English lady has a lump on her cervix, and goes to group therapy. The Czech has had a major breakdown. Only Philip, pulling

the puppets' strings, is whole. The dialogues we are reading are their conversations transcribed into his notebook. Mostly they are true, which is like real life, but not compelling enough for fiction. "There's something to be said for shedding the expository fat," he says of his work in progress, "but I haven't thought it through." Too right he hasn't.

The crucial dialogue is with his wife, of whom we hear nothing till near the end. She has read the notebook, and is outraged that he can humiliate her by presenting his extramarital love life as fiction.

Knowing exactly who's who may be fun for his readers, she says, "but what about me?" He insists that it's all just imagination, a ventriloquist's trick, and she has no right to censor him. He won't even change the name Philip: "It's an impersonation of myself."

The overall implication is that the most interesting thing about a book is its writer. There's a most unusual note on the copyright page of *Deceptions*: "Philip Roth asserts his right to be identified as the author of his work." No problem. No one else but he could have written it (except, maybe, a vengeful woman with a talent for parody), and that in itself is a kind of triumph.

### DECEPTION By Philip Roth Cape, £12.95

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SONNY, in Nadine Gordimer's *My Son's Story*, is the father. He is the man of action, while his son Will (named after Shakespeare) is a writer who shapes the story of his father's life, giving it significance. Perhaps in the end, the child is always father of the man.

The family live happily in a small community of coloured people, where Sonny is the school teacher, steeped in the tradition of learning and of service. He loves his wife, carefully nurtures his own children, and leads his pupils towards whatever opportunities he can find for them. When the firmness of his belief leads him into the fight for freedom against oppression, the qualities that once made him a pillar of conformity now enable him to settle without fuss into a life of underground meetings, subterfuge, and practising to deceive. He accepts the need for secrecy without self-consciousness, and when the new life draws him into a passionate love affair with a white woman he accepts that too, because their relationship has been formed in a special and different morality, which needs a recasting of the meaning of love.

Will, loving his father, feels at first betrayed and then rebellious. His sister leaves home to be a freedom-fighter; his quiet, self-effacing mother takes to meeting mysterious friends in unfamiliar parts of town. She, too, it turns out, is working for the cause, storing bombs in the garage, and acting as messenger between contacts. Will feels himself becoming the centre and protector of a family now split apart by the pursuit of an ideal, which also holds them together. Gordimer has a long and deep understanding of the cross-pattern of public emotion and private feeling in South Africa. She displays, with great gentleness, the network of conflicting demands on this one

## Loves and hates under apartheid

Anne Barnes

MY SON'S STORY



By Nadine Gordimer  
Bloomsbury, £13.95

NECESSARY RITES  
By Janice Elliott  
Hodder & Stoughton, £11.95

DOCTOR DE MARR  
By Paul Theroux  
Hutchinson, £6.99

family living in a world where everything is determined by the political struggle, and the subterfuges required play strange tricks with frankness and falsity, making them often change places. She is too wise to resolve the questions she has raised. Her characters are symbols of a much wider conflict.

The Necessary Rites of Janice Elliott's world seem overlaboured in comparison. Moira and Dan are set firmly in an English university town, surrounded by children, dogs, freezer-dispensed dinners,

and neighbours just like themselves. The trouble is that it is Christmas, that terrible measuring time, when past tragedies and former happiness rise up to rebuke one in almost equal proportions, throwing intolerable strain on the robustness of this year's goodwill. Moira, dull even in her most reflective moments, does what she can. She cooks wholesome meals, gets in the Christmas decorations, invites a suicidal teenager to share the festivities, and ties a red ribbon to the dog's collar. Dan worries about his work, and lusts after his doctor's receptionist. Why are these people, so paralytically dull, and why haven't they changed in the last 30 years? Perhaps it is because this sort of middle-class angst, based as it is on a point between self-congratulation and guilt, is simply now a literary convention which can no longer be developed, only deployed. Just occasionally Moira's sense of panic does strike true, but it is left to her son to provide some point of reality as he stumbles around trying to make sense of his parents' world.

Perhaps all parents are baffling to their children. In Doctor De Marr, Paul Theroux presents a detailed picture of identical twins, whose lives have been blighted by a father who brought them up to act out a perpetual freak show. Always dressed exactly alike, hair-cuts identical, every possession and experience shared, they have come to fear and loathe each other. As adults they live apart and out of communication, until

one day George arrives on Gerald's doorstep demanding to be let in. From then on Gerald's quiet life is swallowed up by George's more dangerous lifestyle. On one level, Theroux is telling a simple story of mistaken identity with a violent outcome. On another, he is making a sophisticated and lucid comment on the way an individual personality is made up from reflections of other people's lives and behaviour. Gerald is disturbed by the ease with which he steps into the life of the brother he hates. In this very short novel Theroux has placed every word to maximum effect. He can make even the calmest of moments seem violent.

### Saturday Review

#### Victorian best-seller

Peter Ackroyd reviews the biography of Mrs Humphry Ward, whose novels outsold Dickens, Wodehouse, Moorhouse

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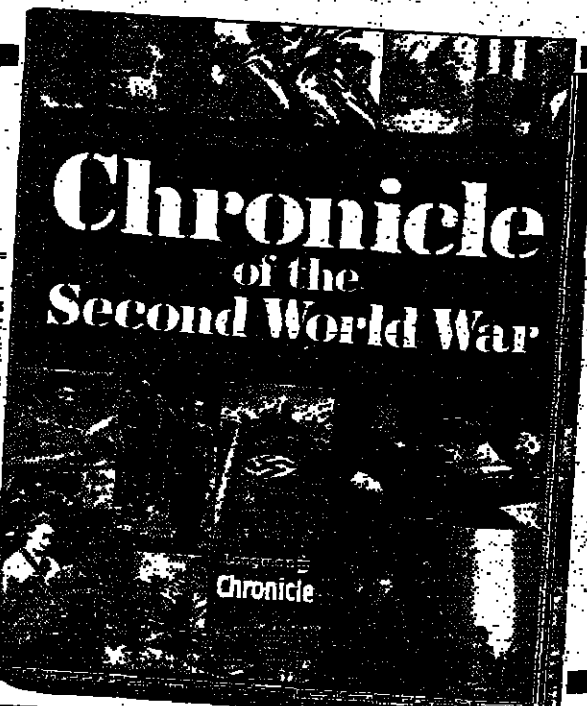
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## ARTS

## CINEMA: NEW RELEASES

## Flights of fact and fantasy

David Robinson reviews the second world war drama *Memphis Belle*, *Waiting for the Light*, *Stella* and *Why Me?*

A first sight it might seem quixotic in 1990 to make a film about the crew of a second world war bomber. Will the very young audience that dominates the cinema today be interested in the war memories of their grandparents?

Yet David Putnam, the producer of *Memphis Belle* (PG, on general release nationwide), has perhaps rightly anticipated that the film may respond to a spiritual need in our period of global anxiety and looming war. He presents visual memories of a time when entire populations united to combat evil.

The film is inspired by a feature length documentary, *The Memphis Belle*, made in 1943 by William Wyler, who flew with the American Eighth Air Force in England. Co-produced by Wyler's daughter, Catherine, the film recreates the final mission of the Boeing B-17 Flying Fortress. The first concern of the film has been to recreate the period, and the experience of flying in those pre-electronic days.

Five B-17s known to be in service 55 years after the type was first introduced were recruited for the film, together with three German Messerschmitt fighters and eight American Mustangs. These veterans perform gracefully, vividly conveying the high tech of flying half-a-century ago. The only disappointments are some obvious model shots, which stay on screen long enough to damage the illusion that is elsewhere so well built up.

The crew of a Flying Fortress consists of ten men. The point of the film is to show how young they were — not heroes, but boys just out of school. To sustain interest in an entire group is always hard. The young actors are deft and charming, but Monte Merrick's script gives none of them the chance to sketch his character in more than two dimensions.

*All Quiet on the Western Front*, a similar but far greater war film to which this bears some resemblance, had two advantages: the action was spread over months (here it is a night and a day), and the story focused on one central character. Merrick's task in attempting to portray ten characters could have been easier if he had placed one of them in the foreground.

Directed confidently by Michael Caton-Jones (see interview, right), the film evokes the era

Recreating the missions of the Flying Fortress: Rascal (Sean Astin) and Danny (Eric Stoltz) in Michael Caton-Jones's *Memphis Belle*

admirably through the use of period film clichés. The most touching passages include most notably an interlude in which grainy old actuality film of bombing raids is overlaid with the words of the loved ones of dead airmen. The film, moreover, takes a great chance — which comes off — in a scene where a young airman (Eric Stoltz) stands on the airfield and recites a poem, which he claims as his own. He is lying, and the scene has the force it has because the poet is W. B. Yeats:

"I know that I shall meet my fate  
Somewhere among the clouds above."

*Waiting for the Light* (PG, Cannon Tottenham Court Road) is a different view, comic this time, of the way communities react in times of crisis. This time we are in 1962, with middle America in jitters over the Cuban missile affair, and digging fall-out shelters.

The English writer-director Christopher Monger sets his story in a small township in the Pacific north-west, where single-mother Teri Carr has inherited a run-down diner. She is accompanied by her two characterful children and her delinquent Aunt Zena, a retired circus magician. Zena, between devouring scandalous tabloids, delights the children with her own magical mischief.

In the Thirties tradition of small-town comedy, the film relates how Zena and her subverted young relatives use fireworks to convince the locality that miracles are happening in the garden of their next-door neighbour, the town grocer. People oppressed by the fear of nuclear war rush headlong into the shelter of religion and superstition. It is a pleasant fantasy, with a jolly performance by Shirley MacLaine, who seems now committed to playing such over-the-top eccentrics.

The Goldwyn family have shown great loyalty to Olive Higgins Prouty's tear-jerking novel of mother love, *Stella Dallas*. The first time Sam Goldwyn made it was as a silent film in 1925; the next version by Henry King boasted a great performance by Belle Bennett and Douglas Fairbanks Jr, and the third production, yet again by Goldwyn, featured Barbara Stanwyck.

Now Sam Goldwyn Jr has dug it out again as a vehicle for Bette Midler. The abbreviation of the title to *Stella* (15, Odeon Haymarket) reflects a token modernisation. In the original the heroine married above her station; now, in deference to contemporary mores while still straying out of her social class, she stays an unmarried mother.

Even allowing for the American obsession with class, the story has grown no less mawkish and improbable in the half-century since

it last surfaced, and credulity is constantly strained by Bette Midler's chameleon performance, as she switches from sacrificing mother to grotesque harpist.

Previous versions were made in more innocent times, and were saved by the intensity of their stars and the sensitivity of two great directors. *Stella*, directed with a very made-for-TV feel by John Erman, has no such saving graces.

As a dramatic actor (*Greyhound*, *Subway*, *Highlander*) Christopher Lambert has seemed progressively more inanimate. But *Why Me?* (15, Cannons Haymarket, Oxford Street) reveals his pleasant vitality as a comedian.

The film — directed by Gene Quintano — has not much else to offer. Harmless, if witless, it is conventional caper comedy, with Turkish patriots, Armenian terrorists, the CIA, federal police and the underworld all in frenzied pursuit of a stolen jewel.

## CINEMA: INTERVIEW

## Talent deserts to Tinseltown

Oscar Moore talks to Michael Caton-Jones, British director of *Memphis Belle*

Lost: one "great white hope", last seen shooting a \$24 million film about a American second world war bomber crew who flew 25 missions in a plane called *Memphis Belle*; he is wanted alive to face charges of desertion in the face of duty.

He may have been unofficially christened the "great white hope" of the British film industry, but Michael Caton-Jones does not feel obliged to stay home. The director of *Memphis Belle* and *Scandal* has moved to Hollywood, and if critics want to complain about another British talent deserting to Tinseltown, he thinks that is just not fair. After all, he never pretended that he wanted to spend the rest of his life struggling with the financial strictures of the beleaguered British film industry. And he certainly never pretended that he did not want to pay his respects at the film-maker's Mecca.

"Over the last four years all I've wanted to do is go to Hollywood and make films," says the 32-year-old Scotsman, sounding almost wounded that anyone should criticise him or talk of defection. "Anyone who has ever known me has known that. I've made no bones about it at all. It's where my sensibilities are. The films that are my inspiration are the classics of American cinema of the Thirties and Forties: Ford, Hawks, Wyler, Capra. These are the films that I can watch again and again."

Caton-Jones has always wanted to make movies, a legacy from a childhood of free Saturday matinees (he was given a free cinema pass in return for delivering posters to high street shops). He arrived in London at the age of 18 where he worked as a stagehand in the West End, while continuing to write short stories. "In retrospect I can see that being a stagehand gave me a taste for the physical production side of things, while the writing was taking care of the intellectual side. And when I discovered directing it was the perfect synthesis of the two sides of my nature. From then on it was very obvious what I wanted to do."

In his early twenties, Caton-Jones badgered out-of-work actor

friends to appear in a series of home-made shorts. "I wrote, shot and directed the first one in a week. It had Maureen Lipman in it, which was great. I wrote and directed three films in six months, so then I thought I'd better find out why I was doing this and I applied to the National Film School."

His first-year film, *Liebe Mutter*, an obliquely autobiographical film about a German arriving in London for the first time, won the Best European Student Film Award in Munich and was bought by both German television and Channel 4. His second film, *The River*, was screened at the Edinburgh Film Festival where it attracted the attention of David Benedictus, then a commissioning editor at Channel 4, who gave the student director his first professional job.

"To me, the joy of making films is that they are the sum total of every single person's contribution," says Caton-Jones. "You change one person and you have a totally different film. You can't control everything so why try? Why not make room for people to do good work and then select the best? Everybody's got a good idea somewhere. It just comes down to me being the person who says yes or no."

Why now, after two hit films in Britain, is Caton-Jones leaving for Los Angeles, a city he describes as a "cultural desert"? "It is really difficult to get films made in this country. After I finished *Scandal* I had 33 scripts from America and one from England. I felt that I was banging my head against a brick wall. Then *Memphis Belle* came along and it was exactly the opposite to *Scandal* so it was very attractive to me." Despite being shot in England, the film, with its ensemble of young American actors, convinced Caton-Jones that he belonged overseas.

"I feel far closer spiritually to the American sensibility. I had a whole of a time with these actors. I really found them fantastically liberating. Americans on the whole are much less cynical than we are. I love their energy. I love their enthusiasm. It was all very refreshing after working in this country, where the attitude is always, 'we'll never be able to do that. It's too expensive.'"

"I would love to stay here and make films. But if you cannot even get to first base with a project it is too frustrating. The thing is, in America they make films all the time."

ALWAYS (OC, PG) Steven Spielberg's lush, charming, but ultimately pointless remake of the wartime fantasy *A Guy Named Joe*, with Richard Dreyfuss in Spencer Tracy's old role as the dead pilot returning to lend a hand. 1990.

THE COMANCHEROS (CBS/Fox, PG) John Wayne as Jake Cutter, the Texas Ranger who always gets his man, rounding up the renegades selling Comanches guns and booze. A breezy, sprawling kind of Western — and the last film of its notable director, Michael Curtiz. 1991.

SPRINGTIME IN THE ROCKIES (CBS/Fox, U) Forget the studio plot — least instead on the effervescent cast (Betty Grable, Carmen Miranda), the lush Technicolor, and the spectacle of wartime escapism running riot. 1942.

## CRITIC'S CHOICE VIDEO

A weekly selection of films recently released on video. The year refers to the date of first release, or for television films, of first broadcast.

THE FABULOUS FLEISCHER POLIO (Legend, U) Two volumes of vintage cartoons from the creators of Betty Boop, Popeye, and the *Out of the Inkwell* series.

FOOLS OF FORTUNE (Palace, 15) Fragmentary, iridescent and endearing. A brief, but brilliant, novel about an Irish family in the Twenties, destroyed by the political troubles. With Ian Glen, Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio and Julie Christie. 1990.

GLORY (RCA/Columbia, 15) Compelling salute to the black soldiers who fought for the Union cause in the American Civil War.

with Matthew Broderick as a callow colonel and Denzel Washington as a runaway slave under his command. Directed by Edward Zwick. 1990.

KID GALAHAD (Warner, PG) Lively boxing melodrama, with Edward G. Robinson as the ruthless promoter turning a sappy bellhop (Wayne Morris) into a prize fighter. The girlfriend dodging the punches is Bette Davis. Director, Michael Curtiz. 1937.

THE LION IN WINTER (Channel 5, 15) Plantagenets gather for Christmas and quarrel. James Goldman's play gives Peter

O'Toole (Henry II) and Katharine Hepburn (Eleanor of Aquitaine) much to get their teeth into though the handsome production only emphasises the material's theatrical contrivances. Director, Anthony Harvey. 1968.

LISZTOMANIA (Warner, 18) Tawdry showcase for Ken Russell's worst excesses, with Roger Daltrey, fresh from *Tommy*, as a hopelessly vulgarised Franz Liszt, cast in the mould of a rock music performer. Strong stomachs are required. 1975.

TIN MEN (Buena Vista, 15) Bright, inventive comedy-drama from writer-director Barry Levinson, with Richard Dreyfuss and Danny DeVito as warring home improvement salesmen — one slick, one slovenly. 1987.

GEOFF BROWN

## BRIEFING

## Jam but few additives

THE Hard Rock Café, the preferred West End eatery for the rock 'n' roll *de mi-monde*, has hit on a novel way to mark the 20th anniversary of Jimi Hendrix's death. On September 18 the café will host an Irish wake, a private musical celebration in honour of Hendrix's memory. This star-laden affair is being organised by Mitch Mitchell, former drummer of the Jimi Hendrix Experience, who is hoping to get "all the people who should be there" involved in a commemorative jam session.

The trouble is that, after so many years, it is proving difficult to track down some of the 200 invitees on Mitchell's list. Peter Green, who impressed Hendrix more than any other English guitarist, is now a recluse and unlikely to turn up. And Mitchell has had no luck in contacting Dusty Springfield, with whom Hendrix once sang a duet of "Mockingbird", or Eric Burdon, the ex-Animals singer. Dusty and Eric, your invitations await.

## Foreign policy

AMERICAN orchestras apparently still cling to the belief that the only great conductor is a non-American one. That was confirmed again by the announcement that the Cleveland Orchestra is extending the contract of German conductor Christoph von Dohnányi as music-director by a further five years. Dohnányi, is conducting the Cleveland Orchestra at the Proms tonight.

The other top American orchestras are equally dazzled by foreigners. Kurt Masur (German) has recently been appointed in New York. Riccardo Muti (Italian) has served a long stint in Philadel-



New contract: Dohnányi

## Harvest of opera

ARMCHAIR opera buffs have never had it so good, claims the BBC. The autumn season on BBC 2 will be led by a transmission of Wagner's *Ring* cycle, transmitted in weekly instalments from October 6. The production will be Nikolaus Lehnhoff's for the Munich Opera, conducted by Wolfgang Sawallisch. Glyndebourne Touring Opera's production of Britten's *Death in Venice*, Mark-Anthony Turnage's operatic treatment of Steven Berkoff's *Greek*, and a repeat of the prize-winning film of *Bluebeard's Castle*, will also be among the highlights.

Later transmissions include Covent Garden's *Cunning Little Vixen*, Glyndebourne's *Figaro*, conducted by Simon Rattle; Handel's *Giulio Cesare* in a modern-day production by Peter Sellars; and John Eliot Gardiner's version of *Pelléas et Mélisande*.

## TELEVISION

## The casualties of war and peace

AS GERMANY reunites, it starts to consider its own past in the light of fresh evidence. Some of that came to BBC 2 last night when *Timewatch*, consistently the best historical documentary series on television, examined the findings of a Canadian novelist, James Bacque, who contends that a million Germans died as prisoners of the Allies in the early summer of 1945.

By April 1945, with the sudden collapse of Berlin, five million Germans were on their way to American prisoner-of-war camps. Newsreel footage of German concentration camps caused the American guards, many of them exhausted combat veterans, to question their responsibilities towards a nation which had behaved with such bestiality.

The official line from Washington was that Geneva Convention rules were to be obeyed if the Allies were not to descend to the level of their enemies. Even so, 1,200 Germans are known to have died in a month at one Remagen camp alone, where survivors were left standing in holes they themselves had dug in open fields for protection. Wrist-watches were stolen by American guards and Germans were allowed to drown when they slipped into trenches of their own urine. German and American witnesses talked of sheds full of food undelivered to German prisoners, hundreds of whom were left to die.

Mismanagement and carelessness are perhaps the greatest charges that could be brought against the American army on the Rhine in the early weeks of peace. With scenes of unimaginable Nazi brutality being printed in such army newspapers as *The Stars and*

*Stripes*, it is not surprising that German captives received little sympathy.

But the mystery is that for more than 40 years so much secrecy on the subject has been achieved. Was it in the West German interest to avoid any suggestion that Americans could have behaved less than admirably, or were Americans unable to face the fact that their prisoners were forced to eat grass and left to die of malnutrition?

Another chilling documentary last night, this one for *Inside Story* (BBC 1), looked at the ongoing war on the roads: every week of every year in Britain 95 people die, as many as died at Hillsborough, and several as a result of reckless or careless driving. Yet it is still possible to kill someone while unfit through drink and get away with a fine of no more than £400. One bereaved mother reckoned that a court had assessed her children's lives at less than £100 each, while another was fined as much for taking an axe to the windscreen of the car which had killed her son as did the driver for killing him.

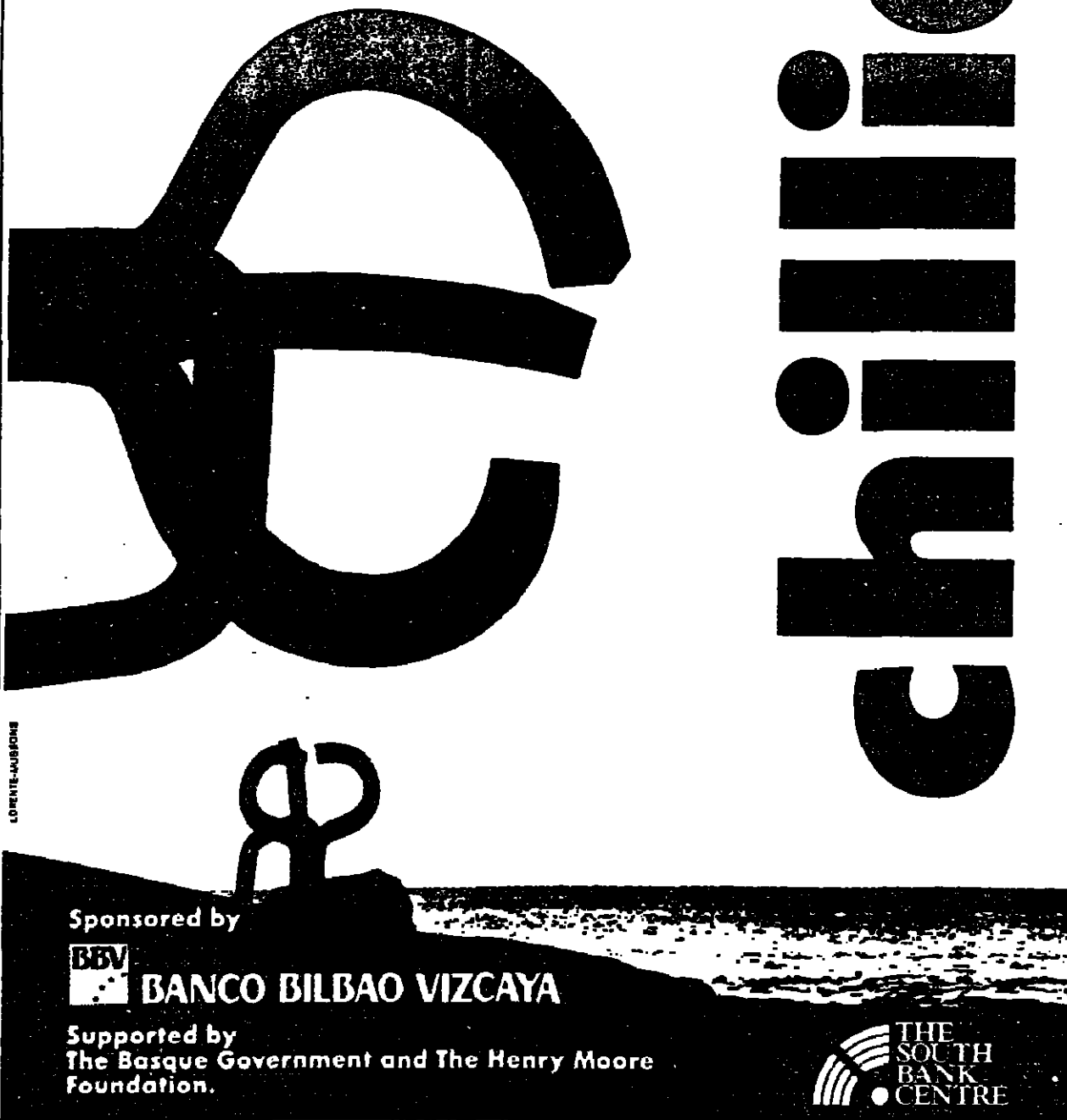
The government has still given no date for a White Paper on the subject, and by tonight there will be another 15 corpses. Definitions of reckless or even careless driving are often hard for a jury to achieve, while death itself is usually considered only incidental to the driving charge. Natural justice and criminal law appear here to be on opposite sides of the courtroom. Only the tragic rage of the bereaved is at present likely to achieve any real change.

SHERIDAN MORLEY

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South Bank Centre, London

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# Enquiry backs proposal for Hinkley Point nuclear plant

By DAVID YOUNG

JOHN Wakeham, the energy secretary, is to announce today that controversial plans to build Britain's next nuclear power station at Hinkley Point, Somerset, have been approved by a public enquiry.

The final decision on whether the power station, the third nuclear power plant on the site, will be built will depend on the outcome of a government review of the entire nuclear option in 1994. However, the clearing of the formal planning hurdle by the project will be a considerable boost to the nuclear power industry and a disappointment to environmental groups that had hoped that privatisation of the power industry would finally kill Britain's nuclear power programme.

It will mean that the team of nuclear engineers working on the project will be kept together by Nuclear Electric, the state company that will run the nuclear network after privatisation.

Mr Wakeham will use the recall of Parliament to answer a written parliamentary question allowing publication of the 3,000-page report on the public enquiry conducted by Michael Barnes, QC.

The Central Electricity Generating Board, the predecessor of Nuclear Electric, pressed ahead with its application for the Hinkley plant in spite of a government decision to halt the building of further nuclear stations, at least until 1994, when an economic review is scheduled.

The company wants to establish an option to build a pressurised-water-cooled (PWR) reactor at Hinkley Point if the nuclear building programme is resumed. It has withdrawn applications for two further PWRs, at Wylfa, Anglesey, and Sizewell.

The £10 million, year-long public enquiry ended in November, soon after the Government withdrew nuclear power from privatisation and halted construction of further plants until 1994.

The application to build at Hinkley Point has become a highly controversial attempt to establish a future option for Nuclear Electric. Opponents have described the refusal to abandon the Hinkley application as a face-saving exercise.

Nuclear Electric takes the view that winning approval for the plant now would avoid substantial delay if the 1994 review favours resumed nuclear expansion. However, opponents will argue that a new enquiry should then be called.

Progress in research into issues such as safety and radioactive waste management will have rendered out of date much of the evidence given to the enquiry. The inspector has examined broad safety and environmental questions and his recommendations are also likely to have implications for

existing nuclear stations, including Sizewell B.

The Hinkley Point C project has been opposed by more than 20,000 individuals and organisations, including national environmental groups and a consortium of local authorities.

There are already two nuclear power stations at Hinkley Point, and by the time a third could be built, the oldest plant, a first-generation Magnox power station, is almost certain to be closed.

The industry says nuclear power does have a significant role because it can replace coal-fired stations that produce large amounts of carbon dioxide, one of the main greenhouse gases.

However, opponents said that using nuclear power in this way will merely divert money from energy conservation, which, they claim, would be more effective in reducing global warming.

The first contracts for work on the project have already been placed. The contract is with Framatome, the French nuclear power plant builder, which will supply the reactor for the station.

Hinkley's reactor pressure vessel would be the second that Framatome would produce for the British PWR nuclear programme. It will be almost identical to the one for Sizewell B, Britain's first PWR station, which Framatome delivered this year.

Britain's nuclear electricity programme began in 1953, when the British Electricity Authority, forerunner of the CEBG, formed a nuclear power branch.

In 1955, the first nuclear power station programme was launched, with the government ordering Magnox-type plants with combined capacity of 2,000MW.

In 1962, there was a switch to Advanced Gas Cooled reactors (AGRs). The first five AGRs were ordered: Dungeness B, Hinkley Point B, Hartlepool, Heysham and Hunterston B.

Three more Magnoxes, Trwynydd, Hinkley Point A and Dungeness A, became operational in 1965. In 1976, the first AGRs, Hinkley Point B and Hunterston B, were commissioned.



IRA education: Natasha Wilson, aged four, arriving for her third day at school in Loughgall, Co. Armagh, yesterday found her classroom wrecked by an IRA bomb. Several police officers were slightly injured when the device containing 1,200lb

of explosives blew up after a warning. Apart from the school, a police station, a church and 30 houses were damaged in the blast.

Two brothers were injured when terrorists opened fire on their van in an ambush

outside Magherafelt, Co. Londonderry yesterday. The men worked for a local construction company which in the past has been targeted by the IRA for carrying out sub-contract work for the security forces in Northern Ireland. The transit van

carrying the building workers managed to drive on through the ambush to the Mid-Ulster hospital where they were treated for gunshot wounds. Their condition later was described as "comfortable."

## China closes last ivory loophole

By MICHAEL MCCARTHY, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

CHINA, the last country officially permitting the import of ivory, is to join the worldwide ban on the trade from next January, it was learnt yesterday, thus putting a formal end to the international ivory market.

The Chinese government has told the Lausanne-based Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) that on January 11 it will withdraw the reservation it took out when the ban was agreed last October.

Although seven states exempted themselves from the ban, five African countries, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Botswana and

South Africa were ivory producers and exporters, and only China and Hong Kong, with a six-month exemption declared on its behalf by Britain, said they would carry on importing. Since the Hong Kong reservation lapsed in mid-July China has been the sole destination for ivory exports.

However, China's ivory carving industry has collapsed since the ban came into force in January and Peking feels there is no longer an economic justification for the potential international opprobrium to be incurred by maintaining the ivory trade alone.

Last night Simon Lyster, the

international conservation officer of the World Wide Fund for Nature, hailed the Chinese decision as the final nail in the coffin of the ivory trade. "We are delighted," he said. "There will now be no legal market for African ivory as the exporter countries will have nowhere to sell it. That's very good news for the African elephant."

Mr Lyster said the ban was working remarkably well. "Prices for ivory have crashed," he said. "In East Africa 18 months ago ivory was fetching between \$150 and \$200 dollars a kilo. Now it is down to \$3."

## German unity treaty faces Soviet hurdle

FROM ANNE MCILVOY IN EAST BERLIN

THE final round of talks on international aspects of German unification hit a last-minute hitch yesterday over details of Soviet troop withdrawal from East Germany.

Senior civil servants from East and West Germany met officials from the four second world war allies in East Berlin to draft the final accord on unity due to be signed by the foreign ministers of the six countries in Moscow next Wednesday.

Diplomats attending the two-plus-four talks said last night that arrangements for the withdrawal of the 360,000 Soviet troops were holding up their completion. The preamble to the accord, and the formula laying down the borders of a unified Germany have been drawn up, but the status of the Soviet forces between now and 1994 in what will be a Nato member country remain controversial.

The talks were extended into the night to try to complete them on schedule, but the matter is thought unlikely to hold up the timetable for unification scheduled for October 3 or next week's meeting of foreign ministers in Moscow.

Helmut Kohl, the West German chancellor, has agreed with President Gorbachev that the forces will quit East Germany within the next four years, but Moscow is anxious to avoid the impression that its army is being forced to leave.

The Soviet Union wants to be seen to be delivering Germany into full sovereignty of its own accord in order to quell complaints from Kremlin conservatives that President Gorbachev has too easily relinquished the strategic spoils of the second world war. Agreement on the internal aspects of unity was signed last week on a separate basis.

Moscow has requested extensive aid to provide badly needed housing for the returning troops but Bonn appears to be unwilling to match the extent of the Soviet request for funds.

● Unification ceremony: Mr Gorbachev will travel to Berlin for next month's unification ceremonies. East German radio reported yesterday. In a report from Moscow, it said that Mr Gorbachev hopes to shake President Bush's hand at the Brandenburg Gate. (AP)

## International miners block Scargill money

Continued from page 1

long telephone conversation last night and you can put two and two together from that."

However, Henry Richardson, the Nottinghamshire president of the NUM and a supporter of Mr Scargill, said the visit to France would definitely go ahead. "There is no doubt in my mind that we can establish that the money belongs to the NUM. Mr Simon will stand his ground, but I believe we will resolve the issue at the end

of the day." The planned visit is highly embarrassing for Mr Scargill who is president of the IMO as well as the NUM, a conflict of interest now concerning the leaders of the NUM. He and Mr Simon would have to sanction the transfer of funds out of the reach of his own union for the last five years, which are now being denied again.

Next week's meeting of the NUM's national executive committee is now expected to point

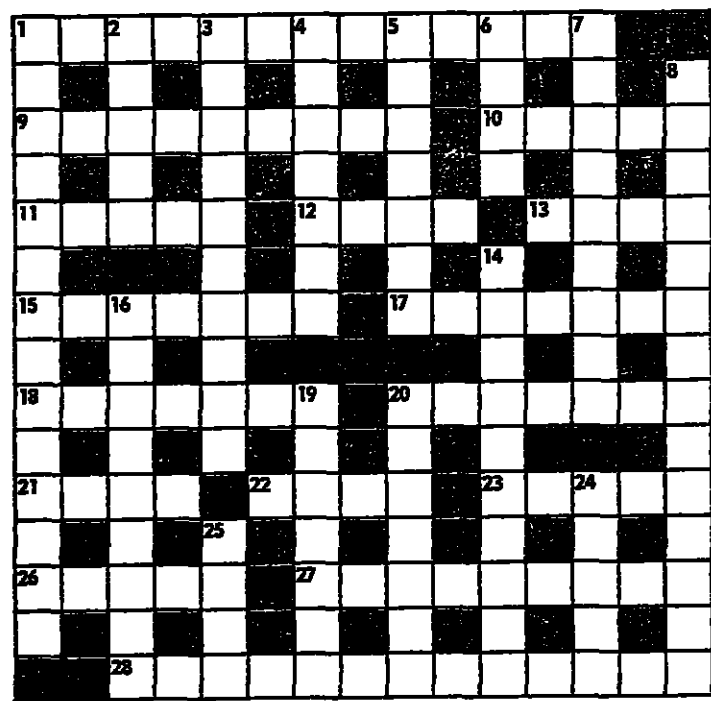
out that Mr Scargill cannot be in charge of both organisations. Mr Rees said: "Arthur Scargill should remember who pays his wages and has got to make up his mind up whether he is president of the NUM or the IMO."

Mr Scargill has always maintained that the Soviet donations were intended for miners internationally, not just the NUM. However, his position was further undermined yesterday by the leaking of two letters from Soviet

union leaders which condemn statements that the £1 million of Soviet money was for the use of the IMO as "baseless lies".

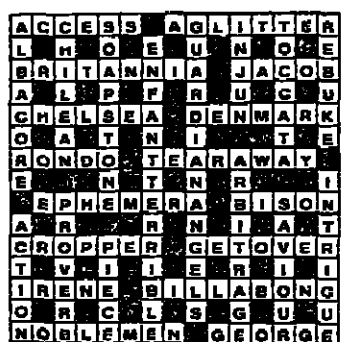
Mikhail Srebny, former president of the Soviet miners, wrote to the National Union of Mineworkers executive to say he was "outraged" that the international miners' fund was created in secret from its six million members and was at the disposal of two people for the last five years.

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD PUZZLE NO 18,392



- ACROSS**
- Where to eat on the run? (10,3).
  - In vehicle girl goes back to the map (9).
  - Profound attribute of Neptune's kingdom (5).
  - Power of aircraft gaining height (5).
  - Played a waiting game with the Queen? (4).
  - Effect of a short leg is not vital (4).
  - Uses trick to break up international organization (7).
  - Flat cake in ketchup at Indian take-away (7).
  - Obscure, like a consultancy of old (7).
  - Dog-eat-dog? (4,3).
  - A box, perhaps, for an old stager (4).
  - "Dreaming when Left Hand was in the Sky" (Fitzgerald) (4).

Solution to Puzzle No 18,391



- DOWN**
- Flower blown by the wind (5).
  - Both sides at Lords switch positions (2,3).
  - In Millet one perhaps found something soothing (9).
  - Chef comes into a lot of money - that's what takes the biscuit in America! (7,6).
  - Plug is out when blowing one's own trumpet (14).
  - Shoot from plane for instance (5).
  - The poor sap is upset by sign of omission (10).
  - It could be a hanging matter for the Church (7).
  - Wandering Dominican drops in before conversion (7).
  - Rules not meant to be broken (4).
  - Salesman exhibits surround with carpet (9).
  - Focal point in town for informers? (8,6).
  - Upstart in City game about an award (10).
  - Debaggged successfully? (6,3).
  - Country house for talk and Adam's ale abroad (7).
  - Agreeable to have a bit of success (7).
  - European has to admit wanting a king (5).
  - Service, a climber, is a long way out (4).

Concise crossword, page 13

## WORD-WATCHING

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which of the possible definitions is correct?

By Philip Howard

- JUPPY**  
a. A Japanese juppy  
b. The yearling cod  
c. A junk-bond dealer
- DVANDVA**  
a. A snow-covered mountain pass  
b. A compound word  
c. A Norse matriarch
- RIILION**  
a. A beggarly knave  
b. A rawhide shoe  
c. A groove for a wheel
- LANIBOYS**  
a. Bull boys  
b. A steel kilt  
c. Flambeaux

Answers on page 22

## AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic and roadworks information, 24-hours a day, dial 0836 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks	731
M-ways/roads M4-M1	732
M-ways/roads M1-Dartford T	733
M-ways/roads Dartford T-A25 T34	734
M-ways/roads M23-M4	735
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midlands	740
East Anglia	741
North-west England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 33p per minute (cheap rate) and 44p per minute at all other times.

## WEATHER

Most of the Britain will have both sunshine and heavy showers. Southern, central and eastern England will have a bright start and some sunshine, but scattered showers will develop during the morning and may become heavy later. Western and northern England, Wales and Northern Ireland will be sunny with strong winds and heavy showers. Heavy showers in Scotland will be prolonged in the north and west. A cool day everywhere. Outlook: mostly dry and less windy.

## ABROAD

MIDDAY: t=thunder, d=dizzle, lg=log, s=sun, si=sleet, sn=snow, f=fair, c=cloud, r=rain									
Aleppo	C	F	79	1	Malaga	C	F	79	1
Alex'ria	C	F	79	1	Madrid	C	F	79	1
Algiers	C	F	79	1	Moscow	C	F	79	1
Amman	C	F	79	1	Munich	C	F	79	1
Athens	C	F	79	1	Nairobi	C	F	79	1
Bahia	C	F	79	1	Paris	C	F	79	1
Barcelona	C	F	79	1	Rome	C	F	79	1
Bombay	C	F	79	1	Sao Paulo	C	F	79	1
Buenos Aires	C	F	79	1	Seoul	C	F	79	1
Calcutta	C	F	79	1	Singapore	C	F	79	1
Cairo	C	F	79	1	Sydney	C	F	79	1
Canton	C	F	79	1	Taipei	C	F	79	1
Cebu	C	F	79	1	Tokyo	C	F	79	1
Colon	C	F	79	1	Yokohama	C	F	79	1
Dacca	C	F	79	1					
Dahomey	C	F	79	1					
Dar es Salaam	C	F	79	1					
Delhi	C	F	79	1					
Dhaka	C	F	79	1					
Durban	C	F	79	1					
Harare	C	F	79	1					
Hong K'g	C	F	79	1					
Indrapur	C	F	79	1					
Jakarta	C	F	79	1					
Joazeiro	C	F	79	1					
Karachi	C	F	79	1					
Khartoum	C	F	79	1					
Kuala Lumpur	C	F	79	1					
La Paz	C	F	79	1					
Lebanon	C	F	79	1					
Lima	C	F	79	1					
Lisbon	C	F	79	1					
London	C	F	79	1					
Luanda	C	F	79	1					
Luzon	C	F	79	1					
Manila	C	F	79	1					
Mexico	C	F	79	1					
Mombasa	C	F	79	1					
Moscow	C	F	79	1					
Mumbai	C	F	79	1					
Nairobi	C	F	79	1					
Paris	C	F	79	1					
Rangoon	C	F	79	1					
Riyadh	C	F	79	1					
Rome	C	F	79	1					
Sao Paulo	C	F	79	1					
Seoul	C	F	79	1					
Singapore	C	F	79	1					
Sydney	C	F	79	1					
Taipei	C	F	79	1					
Tokyo	C	F	79	1					
Yokohama	C	F	79	1					

## AROUND BRITAIN

London	7.5	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100
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## LONDON

Yesterday: Temp: max 8m to 8pm, 20C (68F); min 8 pm to 8 am, 12C (54F). Humidity: 8 pm, 80 per cent. Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, trace. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 2 hr. Bar: mean sea level, 1011.6 mbars, steady. 1,000 mbars = 29.53 in.

## HIGHEST & LOWEST

Yesterday: Highest day temp: Poole, Dorset, 21C (70F); lowest day temp: Gorse Wath, Highland, 11C (52F). Highest night temp: Southend-on-Sea, Essex, 12.8C (55.0F); lowest night temp: Southport, Lancashire, 12.1C (53.8F).

## MANCHESTER

Yesterday: Temp: max 8m to 8pm, 17C (63F); min 8 pm to 8 am, 8C (46F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 1.0 hr.

## GLASGOW

Yesterday: Temp: max 8m to 8pm, 16C (61F); min 8 pm to 8 am, 8C (46F). Rain: 24hr to 6 pm, 0.1 in. Sun: 24 hr to 6 pm, 0.2 hr.

### AM

### PM

### LIGHTING-UP TIME

London 7.37 pm to 6.22 am  
Belfast 7.46 pm to 6.32 am  
Edinburgh 7.55 pm to 6.28 am  
Manchester 7.18 pm to 6.28 am  
Perthshire 7.58 pm to 6.45 am

### YESTERDAY

Temperatures at midday yesterday: C F

Belfast	15	59	Cardiff	17	63
Birmingham	18	64	Exeter	13	55
Bristol	16	61	Gloucester	15	59
Brighton	16	61	Leeds	19	66
Cardiff	17	63	Manchester	16	61
Edinburgh	14	57	Newcastle	15	59
Glasgow	15	59	Nottingham	13	55

### TOWER BRIDGE

Tower Bridge will be lifted at the following times today: 1.25pm, 12.45pm and 4.30pm.

### HIGH TIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT	TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	2.27	4.5	3.05	7.4	Liverpool	10.22	2.6	11.32	2.3
Aberdeen	8.48	13.2	9.08	13.8	Manchester	1.21	4.5	1.21	4.9
Belfast	7.44	12.0	12.0	12.0	Newcastle	7.46	2.1	8.04	7.4
Birmingham	8.33	12.2	8.51	13.7	Nottingham	7.19	4.0	7.38	4.3
Bristol	7.44	5.5	7.57	5.7	Perthshire	9.42	5.6	9.58	5.8
Cardiff	7.22	4.8	7.22	4.7	Portsmouth	8.31	2.2	8.03	2.4
Durham	7.18	5.3	7.27	5.5	Sheffield				



## BUSINESS

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 6 1990

Executive Editor  
David Brewerton

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Goodman  
loan went  
to Irish  
farmer

THE £25 million (£22.6 million) loan, from the Irish section of Mercantile Credit to an offshoot of Goodman Industries, the stricken Irish meat group, which is currently the subject of court proceedings in Cyprus, was, in turn, lent to Joe Kenny, a Tipperary farmer, it emerged yesterday.

Mr Kenny, hitherto virtually unknown in Irish business circles, has become a major player on the Dublin property market in recent months. He is also a defendant in the case being brought by the Irish branch of Mercantile Credit in an effort to recover a disputed £17 million.

Last March ABP, a Goodman subsidiary, borrowed £25 million from Mercantile Credit. This loan was to have been supported by a £25 million deposit from a third party which never materialised. ABP, in turn, lent the money to Mr Kenny.

After several transactions, £20 million was deposited in the Bank of Cyprus. ABP and Mr Kenny are plaintiffs in a case due to be heard in the Cyprus courts this month in an effort to claim the money. ABP was forced to repay the loan to Mercantile in January when it was unable to recover the money.

The Bank of Cyprus yesterday stated it was not willing to withhold the money from ABP, but that the funds had been frozen by a preliminary court action in the court of Paphos pending the outcome of the case.

Eurotunnel's  
banks confident

The principal bankers to Eurotunnel are growing confident they can salvage the cross-channel operator's £2.5 billion fund-raising scheme after a frantic round of diplomacy among its 210 bankers in the last three weeks.

Eurotunnel's four agent banks, National Westminster, Midland, Credit Lyonnais and Banque Nationale de Paris, met privately in London yesterday to discuss the progress of their £2 billion debt syndication.

Comment, page 27

## THE POUND

US dollar 1.8975 (+0.0225)  
W German mark 2.9698 (-0.0013)  
Exchange index 94.7 (+0.2)

## STOCK MARKET

FT 30 Share 1672.2 (+1.3)  
FT-SE 100 2152.2 (+4.2)  
New York Dow Jones 2620.54 (+7.17)  
Tokyo Nikkei Ave 24078.34 (-829.30)  
Closing Prices ... Page 31  
Major indices and major changes Page 28

## INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base: 15%  
3 month Interbank 14 1/2%  
3 month eligible bills 14 1/2-14 3/4%  
US: Prime Rate 10%  
Federal Funds 8 1/4%  
3 month Treasury Bill 7 3/8-7 3/16%  
30 year bonds 9 1/2-9 3/4%

## CURRENCIES

London: New York  
£ \$1.8975  
DM £1.9698  
Sfr £2.9698  
FF £5.9698  
Yen £14.15  
Index 94.7  
ECU £0.64678  
ECU 1.93615

## GOLD

London: Fixing  
AM \$384.60 pm \$383.30  
close \$386.75-387.25 (\$203.75-204.25)  
New York: Comex \$387.00-387.50

## NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) ... \$29.80 bid (\$28.80)  
Denotes latest trading price

## TOURIST RATES

Australia \$ 21.70  
Austria Sfr 13.70  
Belgium Fr 64.00  
Canada \$ 11.86  
Denmark Kr 11.18  
Finland Mk 11.18  
France Fr 6.55  
Germany DM 2.48  
Greece Dr 200.00  
Hong Kong \$ 1.06  
Italy Lira 2036.00  
Japan Yen 160.00  
Netherlands Gld 1.75  
Norway Kr 11.18  
Portugal Esc 200.00  
Spain Ptas 166.64  
Sweden Kr 11.18  
Switzerland Fr 1.93  
Turkey Lira 1.93  
USA \$ 1.89  
Yugoslavia Dnr 1.93

Notes for small denomination bank notes supplied by Barclay's Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.  
Retail Price Index: 128.7 (June)

OS

IEA forecasts  
oil shortages  
by November

By MARTIN BARROW

THE International Energy Agency yesterday warned consumers of regional shortages in oil supplies by November if the embargo on Iraq and Kuwait remains in place.

The IEA, which represents leading oil consumers, said a combination of stock drawdowns and increased production by members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries would ensure continuity of supply to the end of October.

But the Paris-based agency gave a warning that rising demand in the fourth quarter as winter approaches would result in regional supply problems.

The warning came as oil prices rose to \$30 a barrel for the first time since Opec agreed to increase output in an effort to compensate for the 4.5 million barrels a day lost through the blockade of Iraq and Kuwait. In London October Brent traded at \$29.55, up 70 cents, after touching \$30.

The rise in the oil price, and continued speculation that sterling is about to enter the European exchange rate mechanism, sent the pound sharply higher in early trading. At one point, it had gained 2.3 cents against the dollar and a pipping against the mark. By the close in London, sterling was still up 2 cents to \$1.8945 but only marginally higher against the mark.

The IEA, which represents

18 industrialised nations, estimated the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development inventories on land cover 98 days of forward consumption, two days up on last year.

However, the supply outlook for the final two months of the year remains uncertain. "The market could become increasingly tighter during the winter months," said the IEA in its oil market report for August. "This will come at a time when demand is seasonally highest and as the ability for significant commercial stockdraw gradually diminishes. Severe cold weather and extended refinery operations by industry at full capacity could also further increase market tightness," it said.

In London energy analysts gave a warning that despite the IEA's assurance of continuity of supplies over the next six weeks, oil prices are likely to continue their steep climb even if war does not break out.

Mehdi Varzi, oil analyst of Kleinwort Benson Securities, said: "The IEA is the opposite of Opec - it is the consumers' cartel and its aim is to steady consumers' nerves." He said that oil stocks are not high enough to prevent further increases in the price of crude, and questioned Opec's ability to maintain output at higher levels over an extended period.

Oil analysts estimate that of

the 98 days of forward supply calculated by the IEA, about 29 days comprises government stocks which are unlikely to be used until supply difficulties become extreme.

Commercial stocks extend to about 69 days but a substantial proportion, possibly one third, is required to keep downstream operations ticking over. Mr Varzi said that as a result of the embargo, year-end commercial stocks would fall below 64 days of supply, the lowest since the early Seventies.

Stocks of petroleum products are much lower. World gasoline stocks are estimated at between 31 and 32 days, falling to less than 15 days in some less developed nations. The fear is that countries with lower stocks will bid up prices, putting further pressure on refineries which already working at almost full capacity.

The IEA expects OPEC oil consumption to decline by 1 per cent during the fourth quarter of 1990 to 38.9 million barrels a day (bpd), compared with 38.4 million bpd for the comparable period in 1989. But a 3.5 per cent increase during the third quarter to 37.8 million bpd suggests an early start to stock building before winter in the northern hemisphere.

Mr Varzi, who had anticipated a stockbuild of 300,000 bpd during the third quarter, now forecasts a draw of 800,000 bpd, rising to 1.8 million bpd in the fourth quarter.

Storm claims sweep Sun  
Alliance to £119m loss

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HALF a million claims from the hurricanes which hit Britain last winter have swept Sun Alliance, Britain's largest home insurer, in to a £119 million loss in the first half of the year, down from an interim pre-tax profit of £191 million last time.

The group suffered the most among the big insurers since it has stuck to a policy of only taking limited reinsurance in the Lloyd's market, and meeting most claims itself.

The claims cost Sun Alliance £320 million, or £226 million after reinsurance. De-

spite this, the group is still raising its dividend 11 per cent to 5p a share.

The storms, and persistent problems in America, gave Britain's five composite insurers and Eagle Star, BAT Industries' insurance subsidiary, an underwriting loss of almost £1.5 billion in the first half of the year, more than four times higher than last year.

Arthur Hayes, the general manager, defended the company's non-reinsurance policy despite the losses.

He said: "Reinsurance is

only a flattening out exercise. We recognise our financial strength, and only buy reinsurance against genuine catastrophes."

Sun Alliance is the best capitalised of the insurers. But its reserves took a battering from the rush of claims, falling 13 per cent from their December high to £2.57 billion. However, they are still higher than a year ago.

In contrast to the losses in Britain, Sun Alliance performed better than its competitors in America and produced a pre-tax profit there.

Wimpey plunges  
72% at half-time

By MATTHEW BOND

SHARES in George Wimpey, the housebuilding and construction group, dropped 72p to 175p, as Sir Clifford Chetwood, the chairman, announced a 72 per cent fall in interim pre-tax profits from £45.2 million to £12.6 million.

Sir Clifford said the fall was due to a marked slowdown in the British housebuilding business. He said: "There can be no doubt about the testing times we are going through. It is without doubt the worst I have seen in a lifetime in the industry."

Having sold 2,718 homes in the six months to June, Sir Clifford said Wimpey was likely to complete 6,300 sales in 1990, 800 less than in 1989 when group pre-tax profits were £134 million. Interest

charges rose by almost 40 per cent to £20.9 million, boosted by a £5.4 million payment on the company's biggest property development, the £200 million City office block on Little Britain which is pre-let to lawyer Clifford Chance.

Total borrowings at the halfway stage were £429 million, with £34 million of the £47 million increase over year-end levels accounted for by the Little Britain project.

Contracting was hit by the fall in commercial property developments and lack of capital investment by industry.

Wimpey is paying an unchanged interim dividend of 4p a share.

Cement profits dip  
30% at Blue Circle

By MICHAEL TATE, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

BRITAIN'S biggest cement manufacturer, Blue Circle Industries, reports a 30 per cent slump in cement profits in the first half of 1990, reflecting the slowdown in the UK and North American construction industries.

The fall was partly offset by improved profits from the group's overseas operations, and home products, where the acquisition of the Mysen heating business lifted profits from £16.4 million to £22.1 million.

As a result group pre-tax profits ran out at £93 million against £100.3 million last time. But Sir Peter Walters, newly installed as Blue Circle chairman, said that trading conditions for the group's UK and US businesses were likely to be "further depressed" in

the second half. However, he declared an increased interim dividend of 3.75p a share, against 3.5p last time.

Blue Circle's balance sheet remains in good shape, with gearing at 34.1 per cent as of June 30.

Sir Peter said that cement industry demand had fallen by more than 10 per cent in the first half, but that Blue Circle had seen a 14.1 per cent reduction. "In the first quarter market share was lost on pricing, but during the second quarter much of this has been regained," he said.

On the stock market Blue Circle share improved 5p to 205p.

## BAT dips below £600m

STEPHEN MARKESON



No smoke without a smile: Patrick Sheehy announces BAT results yesterday

BAT Industries, whose tobacco interests stretch into China and which is making strong headway in to the East German market, has quoted Russia for a 4 billion cigarette contract, says Patrick Sheehy, the chairman (Colin Campbell writes).

"But we will only deal if we are paid in real money, or in tradeable goods," he said in

announcing interim profits for the six months to June 30. Pre-tax profits fell from £668 million to £592 million on a turnover up from £8.27 billion to £9.38 billion. There is a second interim dividend of 10.7p, payable January 3, making a 20.7p total so far.

The group has made a final provision of £26 million in relation to Hoyle's bid at-

tempts last year. However, tobacco interests showed trading profits 18.9 per cent ahead at £472 million.

BAT has given warning that the group's underlying performance may not be fully reflected this year because of the influence of world stock markets and exchange rates.

Tempos, page 27

## Cable 'poses threat to ITV'

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK  
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

CABLE will pose "a realistic threat" to the advertising revenue of independent television (ITV) companies by the end of 1993 when one in ten British homes will be connected, according to a study by Citicorp Investment Bank.

The study found that Thames, London Weekend Television, Granada and Anglia were most likely to bear the brunt. By the year 2000, 90 per cent of all homes will be

passed by cable, with 45 per cent not only subscribing to cable television but also opting to watch non-terrestrial channels at peak time, the study predicts.

By 1995, ITV's share of national advertising revenue will have dropped from 77 per cent to 62 per cent and its share of viewing in homes with either cable or satellite will have fallen to just 20 per cent.

But ITV revenue will not show a real reverse until the year 2000.

The cost of advertising on cable or satellite channels will

be "demonstrably lower" than on ITV and Channel 4. Already, homes with cable or satellite are already spending 40 per cent of viewing time watching non-terrestrial channels, making advertisers' ratings targets harder to achieve.

Citicorp expects Sky and BSB, the satellite broadcasters, to "co-exist" with Sky breaking even by late 1992 and BSB at the end of 1994.

The study also predicts that the revenue of cable operators will increase by 10 per cent, with Mercury benefiting "significantly".

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## Hillsdown interim recovers to £82.6m

By JOHN BELL, CITY EDITOR

HILLSDOWN Holdings, the food group, reports sharply higher half-time profits thanks to a spectacular recovery in its poultry and eggs division, which was badly hit last time by the salmonella scare and the Edwina Currie affair.

In the six months to June 30, pre-tax profits surged to £82.6 million (£67.6 million). Operating profits from poultry provided most of the boost, climbing from £3.2 million to £25.8 million on turnover 13 per cent higher at £365 million.

Harry Solomon, the chairman, said that the forecast recovery in the division has taken place against a background of growing confidence in growth prospects for white meat activities. Fresh meat, however, was hit by fears over bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE).

Markets had been difficult for non-food activities such as house building, office furniture and property, said Mr Solomon. But Fairview, Hillsdown's house building division, held up well, selling more units than in the comparable period of 1989. Building land had been bought at competitive prices.

Property operations were cut back. This would lead to lower profits in the full year, 254p.

although exposure to a difficult market would be reduced, said Mr Solomon.

The division reported sharply lower interim operating profits of £14.1 million (£26.8 million). The problems of Lowndes Queensway and tough trading in markets for office furniture held back the furniture division, which made profits of £8.5 million (£8.8 million).

Food, which has become Hillsdown's largest activity, accounting for 80 per cent of sales, was boosted by the inclusion of Premier Brands for the first time.

The merger of Maple Leaf Mills with CP gave Hillsdown 56 per cent of the enlarged group, now Canada's largest quoted food group. Food processing and distribution produced profits of £44.3 million (£30.1 million), while trading profits from fresh meat and bacon edged ahead to £11.1 million (£10.8 million).

There is an interim dividend of 2p per share, a rise of 11 per cent. Although pre-tax profits climbed 22 per cent, earnings per share grew by just 2.6 per cent to 11.92p due to the shares issued to finance the Premier Brands purchase. Hillsdown shares rose 6p to 254p.

## T&N drives up to £46m

By MATTHEW BOND

INTERIM pre-tax profits at T&N, the automotive components and engineering group, rose by 15 per cent to £46.1 million in the first six months of this year. Colin Hope, the chairman, said he was pleased with the group's overall performance, despite hiccups in individual markets.

He said: "If you have a properly balanced spread of customers and countries, it is possible, even in these difficult times, to maintain a reasonable performance."

Sales of automotive components in Britain were hit by the strike at Ford and by reduced demand from Rover Group. But strong increases in sales in France and in America compensated for these reductions. Turnover for the automotive division in the first half was £389 million, more than 62 per cent of the group total. The interim dividend was increased to 3.6p (3.5p) a share.

In March, the company spent £120 million on buying JP Industries, an American automotive components company. Mr Hope said he was confident that JP would not be affected by a slowdown in



Colin Hope: pleased with overall performance

the American economy. "In the first half of the year, JP performed better than the sector. We take the view that that out-performance will continue." He said that when the second instalment of the convertible unsecured loan stock issued in connection with the JP acquisition becomes payable, gearing would rise to about 50 per cent.

## Williams falls by 15% at half way

By MARTIN BARROW

FIRST-HALF pre-tax profits fell 15 per cent to £60.6 million at Williams Holdings, the industrial conglomerate, which gave a warning yesterday that a recovery was unlikely until interest rates were reduced.

Mr Nigel Rudd, the chairman, said: "The group continues to experience difficulty in its British consumer and building products businesses. These will not show a significant improvement until interest rates are reduced and a more optimistic economic climate prevails. An improvement in these conditions does not appear likely in the current year."

Pre-tax profits for the six months to the end of June are before exceptional costs of £3.35 million, being reorganisation expenses. An extraordinary profit of £79.14 million arose from the sale of Crown Paints in May.

Fully-diluted earnings, a share, excluding exceptional costs, fell from 12.5p to 10.8p but the interim dividend is increased from 4.5p to 4.75p.

Operating profits from continuing businesses declined by 4 per cent to £59.8 million on a turnover almost unchanged at £385 million.

The consumer and building products division suffered an 18 per cent fall in trading profits to £25.8 million on turnover just £8 million higher at £213 million. Industrial and military products earned £34 million, against £31 million, on sales £12 million down at £172 million.

## BUSINESS ROUNDUP

### Same Croda payout as profit tops £17m

CRODA International, the specialty chemicals group, is maintaining the interim dividend at 4.1p a share in anticipation of uncertain trading conditions during the second half of the year. Taxable profits for the first half of 1990 increased by 4 per cent to £17.2 million.

Michael Valentine, chairman, said that although he was "cautiously optimistic" about the outlook for the rest of 1990, it was prudent to pay an unchanged dividend to reflect "unusually unsettled circumstances in both domestic and international markets". He added that directors would consider an increase in the dividend when the year's results were known and, it was hoped, the general outlook was clearer. A higher tax charge, due to a lower level of advance corporation tax relief, resulted in unchanged earnings at 8.9p a share.

### Poulenc gives profit warning

RHÔNE-Poulenc, the French state-owned chemical group, reported a slump in first half net profit and said the deteriorating economic situation could weigh more significantly on second half operating profits. Rhône-Poulenc earlier announced attributable net profit of £2.18 billion in the first half of 1990, against £2.5 billion in the same 1989 half.

### Sales record for MIM

MIM Holdings, the Australian mining group, earned a net profit of £327.5 million (£114.10 million) in the year ended July 1, compared with a net profit of £240.1 million previously, and had a record sales revenue of £1.9 billion, Sir Bruce Watson, chairman, said yesterday. The final is raised to 8 cents (7 cents) a share, making 12 cents (10 cents).

### Allied profits fall

RIISING costs and high interest rates cut interim pre-tax profits at Allied Partnership, the building services and plant-hire company, by 25 per cent from £3.2 million to £2.4 million. Martyn Rose, chairman, said profits in the previous corresponding period had been inflated by property sales. Turnover in the six months to June 30 dropped from £63.5 million to £57.9 million. The interim dividend was steady at 1p. Mr Rose said Allied was reducing overall operating costs, but the integration of United Forklifts was taking longer than expected.

### Tesco plans £50m venture

TESCO, the supermarket group, is to develop a 90-acre site at Nantgarw, Mid-Glamorgan, South Wales, in a joint venture with the Welsh Development Agency. The development will include more than 1 million sq ft of industrial and commercial premises, worth up to £50 million when complete, and provide up to 3,000 jobs over the next five years.

### Two directors for Gateway

GEOFF Cooper has been appointed to the main board of Gateway Foodmarkets as corporate finance director. He joins the company next Monday. Mr Cooper is at present a director of Spicers Consulting Group. Mike Russell joins the trading board of Gateway as finance director. Mr Russell, who is currently with Asda, will join the company from October 1.

### Peter Black rises 7%

PETER Black Holdings, a supplier of consumer goods to Marks and Spencer, raised taxable profits by 7 per cent to £10.3 million in the year to June 2 on turnover up 3 per cent to £142.8 million. A final dividend of 2.07p makes 2.84p, up 18 per cent, payable from earnings of 13.35p a share (13.03p).

The results include a seven-month contribution from English Grains, pharmaceuticals and health remedies manufacturer, acquired in October for £12.8 million. Interest charges rose from £2.27 million to £3.29 million.

### Trading tough for Wiggins

By COLIN CAMPBELL

WIGGINS Teape Appleton, demerged from BAT earlier this year and in its first report since the June 1 stock exchange quotation, reported a 9.1 per cent dip in interim pre-tax profits to £85.9 million for the six months ended June 30.

Stephen Walls, chairman, says trading conditions in the pulp and paper industry were difficult in the half year, but interim turnover rose from £801.7 million to £836.1 million.

An interim dividend of 2.3p is in line with the company's forecast made at the time of listing.

The group says the outlook in Europe is for continued downward pressure on pulp prices, which will affect the group's pulp businesses, and the market for paper products is likely to remain extremely competitive. In North America, demand for carbonless products is strong and added capacity is planned.

Wiggins Teape yesterday announced a \$50 million deal to buy the Bote Cascade paper mill in Washington State, which has a capacity of 100,000 tons and employs 450 people.

The deal will establish a west coast presence for the group, and provide access to markets in the Far East and Australia, Mr Walls said.

### Amec falls to £28.6m at half time

By ANGELA MACKAY

AMEC, the construction and engineering group, suffered a 25 per cent fall in pre-tax profits from £38 million to £28.6 million in the six months to June after an £8.5 million loss in its housing and property division.

However, the company is optimistic, that construction and engineering activities will continue to perform strongly in the second half and lifted the interim dividend by 7 per cent to 3.875p.

Construction and engineering turnover was 20 per cent higher in the period while profits in the division improved by 50 per cent. Overall turnover climbed from £922 million to £1.03 billion.

Analysts at Smith New Court, the broker, said the company was geared at 15 per cent at the half-year and by the end of the year, after meeting development commitments, this will rise to 25 per cent. SNC is forecasting a full year pre-tax profit of about £77 million compared with £91 million, and maintained margins.

Alan Cockshaw, the chairman, said order books are strong with continued improvement in overseas opportunities. The company's medium-term target is to derive 50 per cent of profits from outside Britain.

### COMPANY BRIEFS

QUICKS GROUP (Int)  
Pre-tax: £1.6m (£1.9m)  
EPS: 7.2p (8.3p)  
Div: 2p (2p)

New car sales fell 5 per cent during half year with second quarter becoming more difficult. Group is watching costs carefully.

DONELON TYSON (Int)  
Pre-tax: £1.1m (£1m)  
EPS: 2.06p (2.41p)  
Div: Nil (nil)

A final dividend at least matching last year's 0.75p is expected. Group says demand has slowed and orders are weaker.

SELECTV (Fin)  
Pre-tax: £0.4m loss  
EPS: 0.59p loss (0.31p)  
Div: Nil (nil)

Loss compares with a profit of £158,161 last time. Company says this level of losses will not be repeated.

WSP HOLDINGS (Int)  
Pre-tax: £0.8m (£0.4m)  
EPS: 4.5p (4.1p)  
Div: 1.1p (0.8p)

Company expects benefits from recently-acquired Parsons Brown and Donald Rudd, both in the second half and more significantly in 1991.

NESTOR-BNA (Int)  
Pre-tax: £3.5m (£2.2m)  
EPS: 4.40p (3.32p)  
Div: 1.16p (1.0p)

Trading conditions remain difficult but company is confident of an advance in the second half.

STAT-PLUS (Int)  
Pre-tax: £2.9m (£2.2m)  
EPS: 8.7p (8.4p)  
Div: 2.75p (1.75p)

Company gives a warning, that the general economic slowdown could affect its results.

HERITAGE (Fin)  
Pre-tax: £1.17m loss  
EPS: 16.74p loss (11.25p)  
Div: 1.25p (1.25p)

Loss compares with profit of £244,000 last time. Company will stop expanding by acquisition and return to organic growth.

HERRING SON (Int)  
Pre-tax: £1.6m (£1.8m)  
EPS: 9.71p (10.25p)  
Div: 3.0p (2.5p)

Company says there are signs that agency activity has reached a nadir. The company looks forward to next year with confidence.

# DIVIDENDS UP AN EFFECTIVE 20 PER CENT

## SIX MONTHS RESULTS

£1=£1.67 for 1990 (£1.64 for 1989)

### PROFIT BEFORE TAX

Six months to June  
1989 1990 Change

£668m £592m -11%

### INTERIM DIVIDENDS PER SHARE - ACTUAL

19.60p 20.70p +6%

- PROFORMA\* 17.25p 20.70p +20%

(The 1989 comparative figures have been restated at average exchange rates, following a change in accounting policy.)

- Encouraging overall business growth in difficult climate.
- Tobacco: trading profit up 19 per cent with continuing export success.
- Financial services: strong performance from Farmers, Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star Life offset by disappointing first half for Eagle Star's general business.
- "I am pleased with the growth trends in both our tobacco and financial services activities . . . the underlying performance may not be fully reflected in our reported results for 1990, subject as they are to world stock markets and exchange rates." Patrick Sheehy, Chairman.
- Second interim dividend of 10.70p, making a total of 20.70p, an increase of 6 per cent.

\*On a proforma basis, excluding dividends attributable to the demerged companies, total interim dividends are effectively up 20 per cent.



# BAT INDUSTRIES

The full interim report is being posted to shareholders and copies are available from the Company Secretary, B.A.T. Industries p.l.c., Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NL.

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# Let's stop digging at Eurotunnel

## COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

Eurotunnel's bankers seem to be softening towards the idea of stumping up their share of the extra £2 billion of loans needed to complete the project. It may yet prove difficult to melt the hearts of the hardest among the 210 lenders, but some appear to be facing up to some of the more absurd aspects of a problem which the banks themselves have helped to create.

The bankers insisted that, at all times, sufficient finance should be in place to complete the entire project. Unless that condition is met, Eurotunnel must go cap in hand to seek a waiver in order to gain access to the funds already raised.

Since the huge inflation in construction costs and sharply higher interest rates wrecked the original costs estimates, Eurotunnel has been forced back to its bankers on a number of occasions. Even now, the boring machines, less than two and a half miles away from completing the service tunnel, are chugging towards each other courtesy only of yet another bankers' waiver which expires later this month.

Eurotunnel's construction consortium, Transmanche-Link, has skillfully used the atmosphere generated before each waiver renewal to gain wide publicity for its own disagreements with Eurotunnel over costs.

In fact, the project has already raised sufficient cash and equity to continue building until mid-1992, provided the waivers were to be granted.

But since the £500 million equity portion of the final funding package has already been pre-underwritten, it is the bankers themselves who are the sole obstacle to the fulfilment of their own full-funding condition.

The final irony is that if the banks do fail to put up the resources needed to remove this road-block to Eurotunnel's progress, they put themselves in an even less enviable position.

Under the terms of the original agreements, the banks are obliged to complete the project anyway if Eurotunnel is forced to cease

operation. This would involve the substantial additional expense of finding new project management and almost certainly TML would seize its opportunity to build in some £350 million of costs which are currently disputed by Eurotunnel.

The second alternative is to grant a waiver until the middle of next year when much of the work will have been completed and the construction risk, therefore, will be much diminished. At that point, perhaps with interest rates lower, too, other forms of refinancing will be attractive.

The banks have the power to end these artificial "crises" over waivers. They should do so while remembering the old adage,

when you are in a hole it is best to stop digging.

## In the market

Spot the odd one out:

1. This autumn's reporting season is off to a dismal start

2. The world is facing the possibility of war in the Gulf

3. Oil prices have doubled and may yet go higher

4. The International Monetary Fund is talking of world recession

5. The London stock market closed higher yesterday

No prizes, not even the popular ERM board game, for picking out the London stock market as the good deed in the naughty world. But is it also a

reliable beacon in the international fog? The answer is probably "yes", and the rewards for getting it right could be substantial.

It is easy to be depressed by the corporate announcements so far this week. Few have contained any joy, many have been downright miserable and the remainder have been cautious. The season is proving that many sector analysts were too confident, too long and that their more remote economist colleagues, taking their "top down" approach, were closer to the mark.

The sector analysts at all securities houses are bringing down their forecasts in the light of experience and are now much closer to the "top down" estimates of zero growth in profits in 1990. Only those wise virgins, the oil analysts, go home at night with much of a smile, but then they have waited a long time for their darlings' day to come.

The direction, if not the distance, of most profit downturns and disappointments is already in the market. There are always exceptions, such as Williams Holdings which yesterday presented its shareholders with their first profits fall, but in the main those companies which are painted the deepest crimson were known to be facing the toughest times. And there are distinct sectoral trends: Wimpey, Blue Circle and Amec, for instance, are all hit by the high interest rates we have seen for most of this year, and nobody could have expected Sun Alliance to have anything nice to say after the winds of the first quarter did their damage.

The market has most of this on board, which is why the gloom can be brushed aside and all eyes fixed on the will-we-won't-we join the ERM game.

The market price/earnings ratio is around ten and there it should be content to stay, unless matters do become significantly worse. Investors, meanwhile, should use their time and their cash to pick up quality stocks on the market's poorer days.

## TEMPUS

# Tobacco profits filter through the smoke of demerged BAT

BAT has effectively presented its interim report to end-June through a smokescreen, and yet despite a series of minus signs on some of the more important financial data, still manages to secure a vote of confidence from analysts.

It has demerged Wiggins Teape Appleton and Argos. It has switched to average exchange rates. It has had to make higher provisions at Eagle Star, which in turn has withdrawn from property development guarantee business.

BAT shows a 13 per cent rise in group turnover to £9.38 billion, but a 12 per cent fall in continuing group trading profit to £730 million, an 11 per cent decline in pre-tax profit to £592 million, and a 20 per cent fall in net earnings to £20.46p a share.

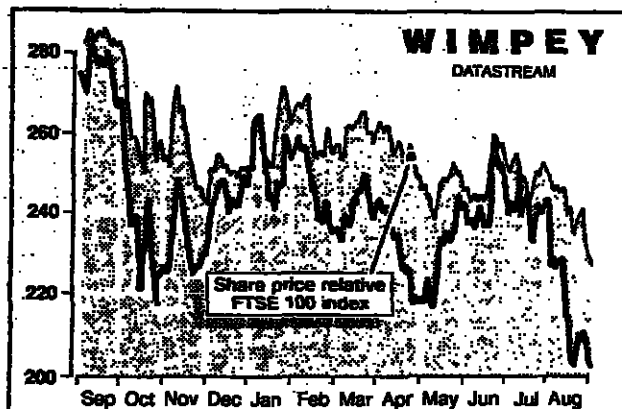
A second interim dividend of 10.7p makes 20.7p so far this year, against an actual 19.6p in last year's first half.

The warning that the underlying performance may not be fully reflected in our reported results for 1990 could turn out to be a sting in the year-end tail. Now BAT has separated from Wiggins Teape Appleton and Argos, a higher tax charge (42.8 per cent for the half year) could be here to stay.

Tobacco operations brought in trading profits of £472 million (£397 million), while financial services contributed £256 million (£412 million). Eagle Star cut its underwriting loss in the second quarter, but the figure grew to a £189 million loss (£46 million loss) in the six months.

Farmers, Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star Life did well, but while Eagle Star has done well from its link with AA Insurance Services, lower world equity markets could hit the Eagle Star in the second half.

BAT's annual profits may



be in the £1.58 billion area, and headed for £1.79 billion in 1991. The annual dividend this year could be 31p. BAT, at £30p, is on a prospective p/e of 9.5 and yield of 7.8 per cent, and on yield grounds the shares have appeal.

## Blue Circle

WAS Blue Circle Industries' management wearing its concrete boots this year? It certainly looks as if its competitors caught it on the hop. BAT's cement sales dived 14.4 per cent in the first six months, against an industry contraction of "something in excess of" 10 per cent.

That a fair slice of its market share drove out of the yard when it attempted to pass on a 6 per cent rise in its own costs on March 1 is not disputed, but it is difficult to discover how much had been lost before prices were cut in line with competition.

Most of the business appears to have been reclaimed by the end of the period, but the group appears to be more satisfied than it should be with its "achievement" in holding British cement profits above the 1988 level.

They may be so. But the

stark truth is that these profits, at £37.2 million, were 30 per cent down on 1989 and can only be expected to worsen as the commercial property sector follows housebuilding over the cliff.

Meanwhile, the board is also less than forthcoming about Myson's impact on the home products' results, although it does seem that without the Myson numbers, hearing, which contributed £9 million, against £2.4 million, might well have gone backwards.

The only consolation is a healthy balance sheet, showing gearing at 34.1 per cent and exemplary debt management that has kept the interest charge to £1.4 million.

Even so, BAT now looks like falling well short of £200 million this year, to produce earnings of, say, 20p a share. With no likelihood of an upturn in British construction before mid-1992, next year may be significantly worse. BAT's rating relies heavily on its yield.

## George Wimpey

IT IS five months since Sir Clifford Chetwood, the chairman of George Wimpey, gave

a warning that unless interest rates fell, pre-tax profits at the housebuilding and construction group would fall from the £134 million in 1989.

Sir Clifford is certain to be right. Current estimates suggest Britain's second biggest housebuilder will be doing well to achieve half last year's figure. Indeed, analysts' estimates were yesterday sorely tested by the news that Wimpey had made just £12.6 million at half time. An unchanged interim dividend of 4p gave the only comfort.

The £32.6 million fall in interim pre-tax profits is, according to Sir Clifford, entirely due to the slump in Wimpey's housebuilding division. The fall in profits suggests operating margins have been devastated. That impression is reinforced by the fact that Wimpey expects to sell 6,300 homes in 1990 (2,718 in the first half) only 11 per cent below 1989's 7,100.

Operating profits of £36.6 million, 43 per cent down on the 1989 figure, were hit by an almost 40 per cent rise in interest to £20.9 million. Of that, £2.4 million relates to interest on Wimpey's Little Britain office development in the City, pre-let to lawyer Clifford Chance, just one of the properties Wimpey will be hoping to sell in the traditionally stronger second half.

Expenditure on Little Britain means Wimpey's gearing is likely to stay at about 60 per cent for the foreseeable future.

On trading alone, Wimpey looks overvalued. A forecast of £70 million gives earnings per share of about 14.5p. But with the land bank and commercial property portfolio underpinning the price, the downside for the shares, off 27p at 175p, looks limited, given Sir Clifford's commitment to higher dividends.

# Mighty Miti comes to Europe with a mission to invest



Advance party for the friendly invasion: T Boone Pickens, left, and Asil Nadir

tell his hosts during a visit to Tokyo that while Britain was happy for Japan to invest in Britain, it would be happier still if the door was as open for Britain to reciprocate.

Asil Nadir's Polly Peck, the British conglomerate, became the first foreign company to take over a leading listed Japanese business when it bought Sansui, a Japanese audio equipment manufacturer, last year.

Hikaru Matsunaga, then Miti minister, pounced on the political value of the takeover at a time when Japanese companies were vacuuming up American icons like Columbia Pictures and the Rockefeller Center. "It's a pretty good thing that foreign companies make investments in Japan at a time when Japanese investments abroad are surging. It provides a good example of progress in the openness of Japan's market," he said.

What Mr Matsunaga failed to point out was that it was Sansui's financial headaches that made it so desperate to find a saviour. Even then, Sansui only looked abroad after all its approaches to potential Japanese patrons had drawn shrugs of disinterest.

But Japan is not closed, though it is still far from open. Ask Mr Pickens, who has bought a quarter of the shares of Koito, a Japanese car parts maker. He barely has his telephone calls returned by Koito managers, let alone gaining the board seats he has been seeking.

Ask the British broking firms who had to wait years for a seat on the Tokyo stock exchange and were only given one after much nagging by Mrs Thatcher.

The barriers may not always be put up by the government, but they are daunting none the less. Japan's still high stock prices, and a system of cross-shareholdings that locks about

70 per cent of all stocks in the hands of stable shareholders and corporate allies, makes it difficult to pick up a large enough block of shares to launch a takeover bid.

The very idea of a takeover bid would make most Japanese businessmen faint. Drizzy land prices make offices in Japan expensive. The need to woo business partners over expensive dinners makes breaking into the market a long, tiring and pricey haul.

It is doubtful that British firms have been waiting for seed capital from Tokyo banks to launch themselves into Japan.

One consolation is that those foreign companies that succeed sometimes do well. Miti says its latest statistics show foreigners' operating margins averaged 6.8 per cent, more than double the 2.8 per cent of Japanese firms.

JOE JOSEPH

## THE TIMES CITY DIARY

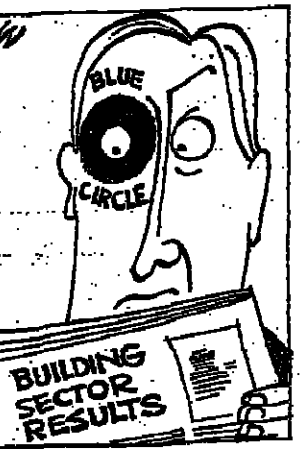
### Money men rule the roost

FINANCE directors are the most sought after executive personnel in Britain. So says Goddard Kay Rogers, which claims to be the largest top-level head hunting consultancy in Britain. GKR says accountability qualifications now open the door to salaries of £200,000 and more. "The job of chief executive is being filled more and more by people with a finance background," says David Kay, one of the firm's founders, adding that equity stakes and profit-related bonuses are increasingly necessary to persuade people to move. A typical package for directors on a salary of £100,000 — not uncommon for the chief executive of a medium-sized company — includes a bonus of up to 30 per cent, stock options up to four times salary, health insurance, generous pension and two cars. "An ability to talk to the City has also become important," adds Kay, aged 55, who commutes to GKR's offices in St James from his home in Cookham, Berkshire, and enjoys flying his Cessna 182. He is easily able to afford such a lavish life-style — head hunters often command a fee of up to a third of a new recruit's salary and bonus in their first year.

**Jumped plane**  
RED faces and cold feet were noticeable among the City's close-knit ranks of European market-makers this week. For

only four of 12 European specialists who had agreed to make a parachute jump for charity this weekend are honouring their commitment. Andrew Lawrence, a dealer with Thamesway, the soft commission broker owned by BZW, hopes that his absent friends will now be shamed into making a large donation instead. "We should raise at least £1,000," says Lawrence, aged 24, who organised the jump to raise funds for Cancer Research and has consequently been dubbed "the fall guy". Joining him at Cranfield, Bedfordshire, on Sunday will be Nick Dibbs, European market-maker at BZW, and Peter Homan and Luke Jerome, both on the European desk at Smith New Court. "We are hoping Thamesway will double the amount we raise," adds Lawrence.

**SO MUCH for signet rings...**  
with effect from last month, the Law of Property (Miscellaneous



**neous Provisions) Act of 1989 made it legal to exchange signet rings by fax. This means it is no longer necessary to "sign, seal and deliver" a legally-binding document, only to sign, witness and deliver it.**

### No ducks, darling

WOMEN in the City have rounded on female delegates at the TUC conference who complained on Radio 4's Today programme yesterday about men who wolf-whistled and called them "darling", "dear" or "duckie". The behaviour of many male office employees in the Square Mile altered dramatically after they heard the interview, and they began apologizing profusely whenever they inadvertently bestowed such a term of endearment upon a female colleague. But unlike those TUC delegates, a quick straw poll of City women reveals that they actually like it. "It's all about equal salaries and opportunities," says Lynn How, a director of Phillips & Drew Fund Management. "And I want men to know that we actually like being called 'darling' or 'dear', even if most of us aren't too keen on 'duckie'. If I walk past a building site and get wolf whistled, it gives a boost to my day. We still want to be treated like women." Hear, hear.

### Bowled out

THE ever-diminishing number of bowler hats to be seen in the Square Mile, will be reduced by yet one more on

Wednesday of next week when Bill Syson retires from the Bank of Scotland after 43 years. "I feel naked without it," says Syson, aged 59, who helped build up a business worth £1 billion as head of corporate banking at The Mound, the Bank of Scotland's Edinburgh head office. A farewell cocktail party is being thrown in his honour at Claridges this evening with the likes of James Gulliver and Sir Philip Harris expected to be among the 250 or so bankers, accountants and solicitors invited. The party will be the third in a week for Syson, described by colleagues as one of the most popular men in corporate banking. Apart from devoting more time to music and art, Syson will now join the board of First International Leasing Corporation, the ship leasing group, and he reveals that he might also take a directorship with an as-yet unnamed oil and energy company in America.

**ACCORDING to "identity specialists" Coley Porter Bell, Marks and Spencer is the biggest "saffie" of them all. The research firm asked 100 people which companies had a caring, consumer-friendly image, and which were known for being the opposite. M&S came out top with a 23.5 per cent vote, while BP fared worst, in the reverse poll, with a 28.8 per cent verdict. The "nasties" included BT, Woolworth, and McDonald's.**

CAROL LEONARD

# AMEV Half Year Results

For the first six months of 1990 net profit, including that of VSB Group, was up 3.8%. Adjusted for exchange rate fluctuations the increase was 8.7%.

Earnings per share rose by 5.4% to Dfl 2.92, reflecting last year's purchase of AMEV shares by VSB Group from third parties.

Total income was virtually unchanged at Dfl 5.4bn.

At 30 June shareholder funds amounted to Dfl 4.4bn (1989: Dfl 4.2bn).

Barring unforeseen circumstances and exchange rate fluctuations, earnings per share for 1990 are expected to be higher than for 1989.

(£1 = approx. Dfl 3.35)

Copies of the 1990 Half Year Report can be obtained from AMEV (UK) Limited, 1 Houndwell Place, Southampton SO9 1NY Telephone 0703 637411

## AMEV Worldwide

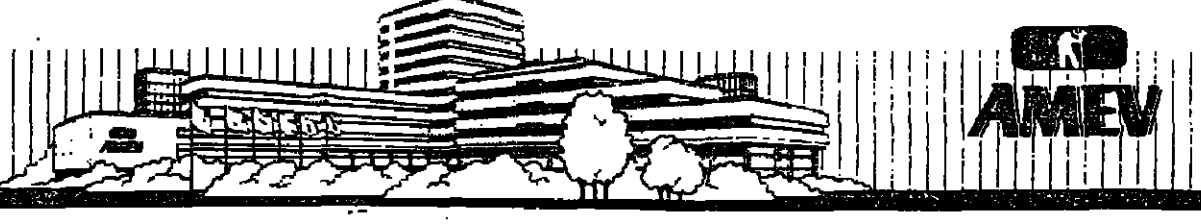
AMEV is an international insurance and financial services group based in the Netherlands. Its shares are quoted on the Amsterdam Stock Exchange and AMEV share options are traded on the European Options Exchange. Total assets are now Dfl 47bn.

AMEV operates in 11 countries: Belgium, Denmark, Eire, France, the Netherlands, Spain, the United Kingdom, Australia, Hong Kong, Singapore and the USA. Its UK operations are conducted by Gresham Assurance Group and Bishopsgate Insurance Limited.

## Future Expansion

AMEV is currently engaged in talks with AG Group, the largest insurance company in Belgium, with the aim of combining operations to form a single group. This would rank among the top 15 insurers in Europe and would play a major role in the developing European market.

N V AMEV, Utrecht, The Netherlands





# Gas group's 20% rise may boost markets in HK

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## ATHLETICS

# Confident Hill sets sights on joining Backley at the top

From DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT, KOBLENZ

NEVER mind Koblenz next year. Mick Hill was thinking as he reflected on his victory here in the javelin on Tuesday evening, the third division of the British League is going to be a tough one.

"We were relegated and they stayed up, so it could take 90 metres to win it," Hill said. "We are Leeds, Hill's club, and 'they' are Cambridge Harriers, for whom Steve Backley, the world record holder, competes.

Eighty metres was enough for Hill, Backley's predecessor as the British record holder, to achieve his first international competition win for a year in the International Amateur Athletic Federation invitational meeting. He numbered among his victims Detlef Michel, the former world champion from East Germany. "Technically, I didn't throw very well, so it all bodes well for the future," Hill, who threw 80.14 metres, said. "There should be a lot more to come."

Hill was second to Backley in the Commonwealth Games in February before needing a third effort on his left knee. "In July I was going to

pack it in," he said. He could not throw further than 60 metres, and his knee hurt in training. "The surgeon reassured me that I was not causing more damage, that I would just have to put up with the pain and eventually it would go. That was the turning point and it gave me a more positive attitude," Hill said.

In his four competitions since that consultation, Hill has not missed a throw, taking all six every time he has appeared. He has been consistent, too, never failing to exceed 80 metres, winning the Amateur Athletic Association title, finishing second in Zurich, fourth in the European championships, and first here. "Just getting through six throws in one piece is good news for me," Hill said. His knee is not yet strong enough for him to rise to his full height at the point of release, but, after a hard winter's training, he expects it will be. "Hopefully this time next year Steve will be here and come second," Hill said. "I am not happy being second best to him."

Hill is a Backley clone: similar in appearance and

determination, relaxed, and a keen golfer. When he raised the point about the competition having started 45 minutes late—"I had warmed up for 7.15 and we did not start until 8 o'clock, which does not help,"—he realised that it might sound as though he was being controversial. "But I'm not complaining," he said. Which could be Backley's catchphrase.

The first Briton out of the blocks after winning in Split was supposed to have been Kriss Akabusi. The new British 400 metres hurdles record holder was on the starting list, but not the track. One plane missed and the next one delayed. Akabusi arrived too late for his event.

He is hoping for a late wild card entry into the final grand prix meeting in Athens tomorrow. Akabusi has appeared only once at a grand prix meeting this season, and has therefore not qualified for Athens. Failing that, he will do his parents-in-law a favour. Their small club in Gutesloe, West Germany, is staging a low-key meeting on Saturday, and Akabusi has promised to race there if Athens cannot find a vacancy for him.

## ROWING

## Berrisford is back in training

SIMON Berrisford may yet be fit to compete in the world championships in Tasmania, which start on October 29. A back injury meant the Leander club sculler was replaced as Steve Redgrave's partner by his club colleague, Matthew Pinsent, for the trial. The selectors had little choice but to break up the partnership which won a world coxless pairs silver medal in Split, Yugoslavia last year. But Berrisford's back has responded to treatment and he has returned to training. "Simon's back is improving rapidly and he will be considered for a place in the team if he recovers completely," David Tanner, the Great Britain team coach, said. "But it is too late for Berrisford to resume his partnership with Redgrave. Pinsent has already been confirmed as Redgrave's partner for Tasmania."

## BRIDGE

## Garozzo ends his seven-year wait

From ALBERT DORMER IN GENEVA

BENITO Garozzo, who was once the leading member of the all-conquering Blue Team, has won the first individual event of the World Bridge Federation (WBF).

After seven years without an important success, Garozzo, 41, a United States resident, defeated a field which included all the world's top-rated players. He scored 7,285 points to beat Robert Hamman, of the United States, with 5,735. Pierre Chastenet, of France, with 5,735, Chip Lamont, of the United States, on 5,565, and the British pair, Andy Robson, on 5,075, and Tony Forrester, with 4,830.

For Robson, aged 26, the youngest of the 20 competitors, and Forrester, now his regular partner, it was a great achievement. All the players who finished ahead of them are reigning or former world champions, and below them were

such notables as Zia Mahmood, Gabriel Chagas, Bobby Wolff, and Kerri Shuman, the only women competitor.

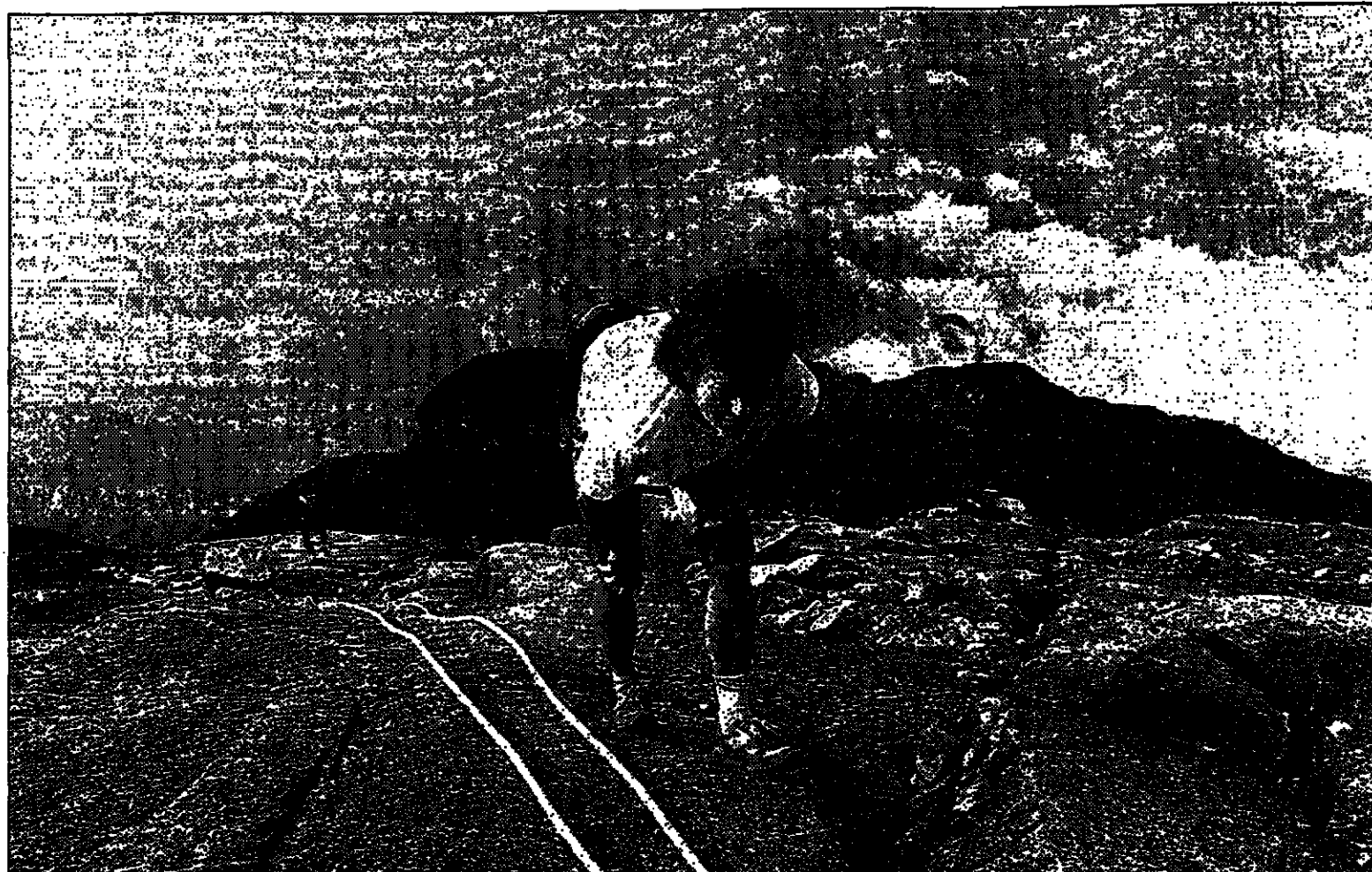
It was a contest in which luck played no part. The competitors were at separate computer terminals to tackle a series of labyrinthine problems set by Pietro Bernasconi, a bridge analyst and computer consultant who is the WBF's own modern Torquemada.

The problems were directed mainly at the aspect of bridge which most nearly corresponds to chess—the complicated end positions. Garozzo's reassertion of a brilliance some had thought buried would recognize those who remember that his many successes were never tainted with the suspicion of less than fair practices which marred other players of the day.

A remarkable runner discovers the sheer joy of scaling new heights

# Diamantides rises to the challenge

ROBERT HOWARD



Up and running: Diamantides attempts to conquer Mount Kinabalu in Borneo. She did so in record time, but not everyone makes it to the top

By ROBERT HOWARD

HELENE Diamantides, a teacher from Kendal, is one of Britain's best mountain runners, but her first sight of Mount Kinabalu, rising to a sheer granite summit 13,455ft above the jungles of Borneo, left her weak at the knees.

Diamantides, aged 25, had forsaken her home comforts for the uncertainties of a race named Climbathon '90 and held in the most exotic of locations. But even her formidable achievements around the world left her unprepared for the daunting sight of southeast Asia's highest peak.

As a former winner of the Guinness Mount Cameroon race, probably the hardest mountain race in the world, and the holder of the record for running the 167 miles from Everest base camp to Kathmandu in Nepal—in three days and ten hours—she has experience of running both at high altitudes and in equatorial heat.

These, plus races in the Algerian Sahara and many home-based records, including 19hr 11min for the round of 62 Lakeland peaks devised by Bob Graham, put her at the top of a sport in which every run is different, and no one is certain of completing any race.

Since it was first explored in 1858 by Sir Hugh Low, who declared the highest point "inaccessible to any but winged animals", Kinabalu has be-

come a national park, with a trail to the top of the mountain. It is unrelentingly steep, often requiring the use of rough wooden staircases as it climbs through forest bursting with flora and fauna.

At 11,000ft, dwarf rhododendrons give way to bare granite slabs and spectacular peaks which rim the 1,000ft deep Low's Gully. For the last 1,500ft, a rope provides security on the steep, wind-swept rocks, and tourists who tackle the climb take two days on the ascent. Not all make the top.

The Climbathon, which took place on September 1 and 2, is a 13-mile race up and down the mountain, with a direct ascent of more than 7,000ft. The record stood at three-and-a-half hours, and Diamantides faced strong local opposition.

Most of her opponents were Kadazan tribeswomen, descendants of head-hunters who now work as porters, some of them having climbed the mountain hundreds of times. Two New Zealand brothers also had the considerable advantage of arriving a week early to try to acclimatise to the oxygen-thin atmosphere at high altitude.

The race began at first light, and from the outset Diamantides proved a class above the opposition. "My confidence returned on the morning of the race and I was surprised it was such a slow start, so I pushed on," she

said. "I wanted to get well ahead so I wouldn't give the others a target to aim at, and because I expected to lose ground at the higher altitudes where I wasn't acclimatised."

The other runners never saw her again, except as she flew past them on the way down, and in a powerful display of running she took every challenge in her stride. Rickety, ankle-twisting ladders, the pain of all-out effort at 13,000ft, exposure, and the danger of the granite slabs and the jarring, sustained descent that was to buckle the weary legs of so many others.

Her winning time of 3hr 18min 58sec put her 30 minutes ahead of her nearest rival, and shattered the old record, in spite of the course being lengthened by a one-and-a-half-mile road run at the finish. It was a time that would have taken eleven place in the men's international race the day before, and beaten Peter Dymoke, the international fell runner, aged 28, who had finished in 3hr 20min 24sec behind ten Gurkha soldiers to achieve the best British position in the history of the event.

All the Climbathons have been dominated by Gurkhas from the 7th Duke of Edinburgh's Own Gurkha Rifles, who train on the steep slopes around their Hong Kong base. Along with soldiers from the 10th Gurkha Rifles, stationed in nearby Brunei, they have taken the top 14 places in

the last two races. With their upbringing on the steep foothills of the Nepal Himalaya, and their army training, they are perfectly suited to hill running.

The winner, for the third time, was Sunda Kumar Lingthop, who finished in 2hr 50min 03sec, just a stride ahead of Sumi Tamang. The prize money of \$4,500 is important to the Gurkhas, as the officer in charge of the team, Tim Coreth, explained: "It's about a year's pay to him, but he sends it all back to his wife and family in Nepal, and after three weeks they must now be very well off indeed."

In spite of their success, the Gurkhas readily acknowledged they had been outshone by Diamantides this year, and she was delighted with her success. "It is a magnificent mountain, worth coming all this way to see on its own, and the race is a classic," she said. "It is high and hard, just the way it should be, but still very runnable. It was great to be able to race and still enjoy the scenery at the same time."

Any thoughts that she might rest on her laurels were quickly put aside, and this remarkable athlete turned to her next adventure. "I am going home via the Indian Himalayas, where I am joining an expedition to two unclimbed peaks. I will enjoy my running while I can, but in the future I'd really like to do more mountain-ering."

## SPORTS LETTERS

## Bowlers need spice of variety

From Mr C. J. M. Kenny

Sir, It is not difficult to agree with the pundits that England's problem in Australia this winter is going to be bowling. A number of bowlers have been on show this summer, but with the exception of Fraser, whose persistence with line, length and variation has brought its rewards, the others seldom used their talents fully or effectively.

One of the most surprising features, particularly where the wickets have favoured the batsmen, has been the apparent disinclination to use the crease—surely a simple yet valuable weapon in any bowler's armory.

Neil Williams, with his natural ability to swing the ball away from the right-handed, encouraged me tremendously but

he seemed unable to adjust his line so that batsmen were obliged to play at the ball. Prabhakar showed us exactly how to overcome the problem by frequently slanting the ball into the off stump from the middle of the edge of the crease.

Some years ago Imran Khan surprised a number of high-class batsmen with an extra ball, bowled rather late in his delivery, from the edge of the crease.

On most pitches in Australia our bowlers will need to employ all the subtleties of variation they can muster.

Yours sincerely,  
CHARLES KENNY,  
Oak Tree House,  
Church Road,  
Claygate, Surrey.

## NatWest failings

From Mr Enda Cullen

Sir, Alan Lee attempts (September 3) to explain and blame a poor NatWest Trophy final on Michael Hunt, the head groundsman at Lord's.

The disappointing match was due to the inadequacy of Northamptonshire's batting. No doubt with selection for the Ashes series due, other excuses will abound as to the failure of well known batsmen.

A majority of NatWest matches has been won by the team batting first. It is folly to ascribe this to the Lord's wicket, which has played its part in showing us the best of English Test cricket this year.

Yours faithfully,  
ENDA CULLEN,  
16 Belfast Road, N16.

## Record run total

From Mr Derek Colley

Sir, Mr Harrington (Sports Letters, August 30) does not seem to approve of Graham Gooch. However, it must be pointed out that the record broken this summer is based on the aggregate number of runs scored, not on the number of innings, the averages or whether it was a nice day or not.

## Village cricket

From Mr Keith Auton

Sir, I fully endorse Robert Rome's village cricket rules (Sports Letters, August 30) but hope that the umpire from the batting side proves not quite as biased as the one at whose hands I suffered more years ago than I care to remember.

On appealing for a (plumb) low decision, I was told: "Couldn't tell you, mate—I was fighting me leg."

Yours etc.,  
KEITH AUTON,  
5 Hummerstone Road,  
Andover,  
Hampshire.

## Commentators on wrong track

From Mr G. W. Dimbleby

Sir, The splendid coverage of the European athletics championships by BBC television was somewhat marred by the commentators' mispronunciation of the names of many of the non-British athletes. To take a few German examples, I wonder whether those concerned would recognize themselves as Grit Broder, Sabina Braun or Silky Nole. One can forgive the remarkable statement that "half of West Germany had reached the last three rounds of the long jump final."

Even our cricket commentators are sometimes fallible. We heard a good deal recently about that Indian vehicle of destruction, the dreaded Tendulkar.

Yours faithfully,  
G.W. DIMBLEBY,  
34 House Lane,  
Sandridge,  
St Albans, Hertfordshire.

## TV news access

From Mr David Knightley

Sir, Your article "Warren goes to war over piracy" (August 27) gives a false and misleading version of TV-am's actions in legitimately seeking to gain news access to sports events. It is true that in May we showed extracts of the FA Cup final replay in our news bulletins without the permission of the rights holders, BBC and BSB.

However, we engaged with Richard Evans's contention that this was piracy.

We took the action after leading barristers advised us that changes introduced in the 1988 Copyright, Designs and Patents Act make it possible, in certain circumstances, for television now to use short clips from other sources to report news and current affairs events.

The act does not require that permission is asked, or that credit of the source is given.

Neither the BBC nor BSB have challenged us in the courts, and we understand that their legal advice on the Act confirms this was piracy.

What TV-am is now trying to do is to have a news access code of practice incorporated in the Broadcasting Bill to ensure that the exact framework of what amount of material from other sources can now be used is established. We argue that it should be a maximum of two minutes within a scheduled bulletin, broadcast after the event has ended.

Yours sincerely,  
DAVID KNIGHTLEY,  
Controller of Public Affairs,  
TV-am,  
Hawley Crescent, NW1.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 071-782 5046.

## Awarding medals to the stars

From Mr V. G. Pierce Jones

Sir, May I plead for a better system of awarding medals at international athletics meetings such as the recent European championships.

The present system appeals to the baser forms of nationalism and is very discouraging to smaller nations which may try but rarely succeed in winning medals. It is all too much an inappropriate act at a time when the political divisions between the countries of Europe are dissolving and the individual nation states are being superseded by the European Community.

Surely a better system would be to award medals to athletes according to their zodiacal sign. Apart from being devoid of nationalist, political or ethnic undertones this system would enable all spectators to identify with a minimum fraction of the competitors. Thus, on average, a seventh of the spectators would identify with a twelfth of the athletes and, when it comes to the winner's rostrum, a quarter of the crowd will have the vicarious pleasure of seeing one

of their own winning a medal. The shared triumphs will really help to foster international good will and obtrusive nationalism will give way to a genuine appreciation of the athletic skills of the competitors.

Yours etc.,  
V.G. PIERCE JONES,  
Rosamund,  
7a Seagrave Avenue,  
Mingham, Hayling Island,  
Hampshire.

## Goal achieved

From Mr John Lee

Sir, Could it be mandatory that in the longer track events a leaped competitor should receive a medal? After all his/her sweat and tears to take part and that has been achieved. Imagination can stretch to a professional foul.

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN LEE,  
Shady Cottage, Augres,  
Trinity, Jersey, CI.

## Gold standard

From Mrs Margaret Munro

Sir, Of three gold medal-winners at the European championship (Sept. August 30) McKean and Akabusi merited some 39 column inches and Yvonne Murray 2½ inches. Is this a double gold standard?

Yours faithfully,  
MARGARET G. MUNRO,  
7 St Helen's Road,  
Alverstoke,  
Gosport, Hampshire.

## Barbed bouquets

From Mr David Male

Sir, The macho image of men's athletics does not seem to fit easily with the presentation of flowers to those on the winner's podium, as witnessed at the European championships. I wonder if there is a more suitable male equivalent that could be presented. My wife suggests socks.

Yours faithfully,  
DAVID MALE,  
13 Mavin Street,  
Durham.

## Analysis of form

From Mr Raymond Franks

Sir, Temporary loss of form seems to be common in most forms of sport, and I have not heard of any attempts to differentiate between the types of personality which are subject to this variation and those which are not.

It is quite easy to find examples of both species and tempting to try to analyse the results.

The conclusions reached might not please everyone concerned.

Yours sincerely,  
RAYMOND FRANKS,  
Sables Cottage,  
World Manor,  
Bampton, Oxfordshire.

## RUGBY UNION

# Robinson leads South-West for divisional experiment

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

ANDY Robinson will lead an experimental divisional XV

from the South-West play Leinster at Gloucester on Wednesday.

The Bath flanker takes over from Simon Halliday, his club colleague who is still recovering from an operation on a damaged ankle. For a match which gives the divisional selectors an opportunity to scrutinise some new combinations.

At least, they hope they will. Jeremy Guscott and Philip de Glanville have been chosen in the centre but Guscott, who was married in July, has not yet returned from a delayed honeymoon, and de Glanville may be involved in Oxford University's preparations for their pre-term tour of the Far East.

With Richard Hill unavailable, Rupert Moon receives his first chance of his title against the North at the Shropshire ground, where they will play both their home games. London's only activity before

the summer in Australia, the second row is occupied by John Morrison and Phil Brann.

Among the 60 players carded for the squad, the division will also keep an eye on Moon's colleague at Llanelli, Tony Cospey, a lock who is studying at Gloucester next week as well as this Sunday's match at St Ives, when Cornwall play the touring Ontario side.

The problem posed by Jon Hall's availability for divisional rugby can be set aside—for the time being. By the time he had confirmed his readiness to play, next week's XV had been more or less decided. The South-West will not play again until the ADT divisional championship proper on December 1, when they meet the Midlands at Leicester.

London, the champions, open the defence of their title against the North at the Shropshire ground, where they will play both their home games. London's only activity before

## Richmond upset over Roberts loss

head propped by England in

Argentina, moved to Harlequins. John Heggadon, the Saracens president-elect, suggested that an elite group of clubs was being established in the country.

In a statement, Richmond said yesterday: "The movement of players between clubs is an issue of growing concern, and we believe it would be helpful if the national selectors and coaching panel made their position

absolutely clear with regard to any selection prejudices they may hold."

The Rugby Football Union has denied any official encouragement of an "elite six" but it is part of a by-product of the league system that players will identify which clubs will help them realise their playing ambitions, either by their success or because of personalities involved.

# Emirates sevens event is given the go-ahead

By OWEN JENKINS

ORGANISERS of this year's

Emirates Dubai International Sevens tournament have confirmed the event will still go ahead on November 22 and 23 despite the situation in the Gulf.

Dubai Exiles Rugby Club, which hosts the tournament, says that the organisers are unaffected by the conflict and they are being inundated with requests for matches from the armed forces in the region.

Robert Hughes, chairman of the Exiles, said: "As far as Dubai is concerned, we are a thousand kilometres away from any trouble. We are playing far more games now and are having to turn down a lot of teams."

Thirty-two sides will contest the Gulf competition, including the Soviet Union, Gavin Hastings and Craig Chalmers, the British Isles players, will spearhead the challenge from the Saltires.

Crawshays Welsh, who beat Bahrain Warriors in the final

last year, will be sending a team to defend the trophy but they have been hampered in their preparations because the tournament falls on a league Saturday in Wales and the third round of the Pilkington Cup in England. Some clubs might be reluctant to release key players.

Russell Jenkins, of Crawshays, said: "I've tried hard to get the organisers to change the date of the competition to a non-league Saturday but haven't been successful. We hope to field a strong side depending on the co-operation of the clubs."

"Despite the fact it will clash with league fixtures, it is important players should have the opportunity to play in major tournaments abroad. As clubs are now carrying large and strong squads, perhaps their match committees will release their sevens players for such a prestigious tournament."

The trip was an unqualified success, with Kyran Bracken, selected for the newly formed Anglo-Irish squad, and his England 18 group half-back partner, Vince Gradillas, outstanding.

RESULTS: Best Northern Territories, 12-10; Best Carmarthen, 20-4; Best to Newcastle and Ospreys, 1-4; Best Ospreys, 21-10; Best St Albans College, 19-21; Best to St Albans College, 19-21; Best to St Albans College, 19-21.

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# Halves ensure tour success for Stonyhurst

STONYHURST's world tour,

which took in Singapore, Australia, Fiji and Los Angeles, entailed nine flights and seven fixtures against strong opposition, six in Australia and one in Fiji (Michael Stevenson writes).

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As the day of judgment approaches, John Goodbody sees more than blind optimism in Manchester's vision for the future

# A city clinging defiantly to its Olympic dream

FOUR years ago, Birmingham bid to stage the 1992 Olympic Games. Barcelona secured the nomination; Birmingham was fifth of the six cities. Undeterred, Manchester is trying to bring the 1996 Olympics to Britain. It will know its fate on September 18, when the 88 members of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) cast their votes in Tokyo.

The Manchester delegation will feature the Princess Royal, the president of the British Olympic Association and an IOC member; Mary Glen Haig, the other IOC member from Britain; Bob Scott, the chairman of the bid; Chris Patten, the environment secretary, and Graham Stringer, the leader of Manchester city council.

The voting is expected to be an open contest among all six candidates: Athens, Atlanta, Belgrade, Melbourne, Toronto and Manchester. Will Manchester win? The answer is, almost certainly, no.

Scott says he will be "calm whatever the result". His principal worries have been that the bid would cost more than its budget of £3 million (which is highly unlikely), and that Manchester would be "annihilated" in the poll. Now, he can foresee a situation in which Manchester



could win - or be beaten very badly, that the IOC members may like the candidature, but not enough to vote for it.

There is another line of thought that has Manchester as a second favourite with many members; however, as the centre parties in British politics have found, this does not win general elections.

The system of voting is that after each round, the candidate with the least number of votes withdraws, until one city gets more than half the total number of votes. It is difficult to see a pattern in the voting. There is no obvious choice for the Spanish or French-speaking blocs, for the east Europeans, now less uniform as a group, or for the Africans. Western Europe could be attracted by both Athens and Manchester;

the Commonwealth members could be split between Toronto, Melbourne and Manchester.

Athens is slight favourite, largely on nostalgic grounds (it was host to the first modern Olympics, in 1896), but it is being pressed hard by Atlanta.

The American city's strongest card is the greater income for the IOC from United States television for programmes at peak viewing time - income that would provide the Olympic movement with reserves well into the 21st century.

Melbourne is seen as capable of staging a fine Olympics, but Australia is regarded by some IOC members as being too far from the centre of international sporting activity.

Manchester has concentrated its efforts to attract votes on recent months, rather than "peaking" too soon. Rick Parry, the director of the bid, says that he has felt "mild irritation" at criticisms of the low-key approach in 1989. The strategy was carefully prepared after de-briefing the committees of Barcelona and Lillehammer, the successful candidates for the summer Games of 1992 and the winter Games of 1994. These interviews were something other than 1996 candidates did not bother to have.

Because Birmingham entered the bidding for 1992 so late, it had only 35 IOC members visiting the city. Manchester has had 60. One important feature, says Parry, was to demonstrate that the reality of Manchester was better than its image of the industrial revolution.

Initially, Manchester, and the northwest generally, had to demonstrate to IOC members its capability of organising the Games, and of having the necessary financial backing, infrastructure and potential for development. Like the other candidate cities, Manchester satisfied these criteria, despite the absence of a

large number of facilities, particularly a main stadium. However, Manchester has tried to capitalise on this, arguing that the IOC can give the opportunity for the facilities to be built for the people of the region to enjoy Olympic sports. As Scott said: "It is a vision for the future."

The question occupying the IOC members in Tokyo, Parry considers, will no longer be whether Manchester can stage the Games; that has been satisfied. Now, members have to ponder why they should vote for Manchester. Parry thinks the

paramount factors are whether a candidate has a genuine feel for the Olympic movement, whether it is a politically-motivated bid, and whether it generates real confidence.

Manchester will be the last of the six candidates to present its case. This clearly is an advantage. However, since many IOC members may have become satisfied by the previous presentations, Manchester's is only 35 minutes, deliberately shorter than some of its rivals.

Among the team of 30, small compared with the 300 from Atlanta and 250 from Athens, will be Bobby Charlton, who is still, to many foreigners (as well as Britons), a great symbol of the city. Whereas English football could have been a vote-killer in recent years because of its links with hooliganism, this has changed: Manchester United's victory in the FA Cup final, televised round the world, and particularly England's fair play award in the World Cup, have made football a positive asset to the bid.

Even if Manchester fails to gain the nomination, it will still have benefited from the campaign. John Gleser, the chief executive of the Manchester Development Corporation, which has given

financial support to the bid, is convinced that seeking to stage the Games has brought Manchester "back to the lips of people".

He cites an example. A year ago, in Tokyo, he was addressing a group of Japanese businessmen who were considering investing in the northwest of England. The IOC member in Japan was present and, quite uninvited, spoke of the quality and credibility of Manchester's Olympic bid. "The return in public relations and overseas awareness has been tremendous," Gleser said. "It would have needed an international advertising campaign, worth far more than £3 million, to gain similar results."

The bid has also given the city self-confidence. Property has risen in value, and people are looking to Manchester to provide services that previously London would have supplied.

However, Manchester insists it is bidding for the Games for sporting, not economic, reasons. Charlton talks of the "passion for sport in the region". It is also an opportunity to build the country's reputation as the venue for the British Games. They could unify people and provide facilities for the future. Besides which, I think we can do the best job."

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## PROSPECTIVE VENUES

THE centre of the Manchester Olympic Games would be at Barton Cross, a 1,000-acre site 15 minutes by car from the city centre and situated on the banks of the Manchester Ship Canal. This would include the athletics stadium, an 80,000-seat venue with everyone under cover. Next to it would be the stadium for swimming, diving and water polo and a 20,000-seat indoor arena for gymnastics. A few minutes' walk away would be the Olympic village and the main press centre. Preliminary rounds of football would be staged at the grounds of Manchester United, Liverpool,

Everton and Manchester City, while the equestrian events would be at Haydock Park racecourse and Tatten Park. The yachting would be at Tremadoc Bay on the north Welsh coast and the rowing on a new, man-made course on the River Don, near Chester; archery, modern pentathlon and shooting would be in the same area. Boxing would be at the Zetland arena, now under construction at Hunslet, 20 minutes by car north of

Manchester, and judo at the Platt Fields modular arena to be built by Manchester City, next to Maine Road.

Robinson, of Nottinghamshire, is man of the match but Derbyshire come out on top

## Pulsating half-century by Kuiper

Barry Greenwood

DERBY (Nottinghamshire won 105): Derbyshire beat Nottinghamshire by 22 runs. EVEN if it was somewhat anti-climatic after the heavy excitement of winning the Sunday League here 10 days ago, Derbyshire, none the less, did not lack for resolve. Other than containing Tim Robinson, who struck 96 off 90 balls and was man of the match, they were not unduly troubled on their way to the Refuge Assurance Cup final.

This semi-final was won, as was the match against Essex which brought Derbyshire the League trophy, by a pulsating half-century from Kuiper. In fact he made 74 from just 45 balls.

He insists that Derbyshire's members have not seen the best of him this season, but after this they will not be taking him at his word.

Derbyshire were put in, partly perhaps because the pitch was a sickly lime green in appearance. In practice, it was merely a little slow.

Barnett and Bowler were rarely troubled while making 100 from 21 overs and 118 in all before Bowler was taken in deep square leg off Cooper. He made 59 and Barnett 83 in 32 overs through a flurry of improvised drives and pulls.

Yet with Morris going for a duck, caught off a skier as he attempted a straight drive off Evans, there was a need for further improvisation. Kuiper provided it.

Even Stephenson's celebrated slower ball was sent into the crowd. This was one of three sixes, and there were seven fours as well before he was out to the last ball of the innings. He and O'Gorman

had put on 87 off the last eight overs.

Derbyshire seemingly had more than enough, even if Nottinghamshire had been one of the few sides to beat them in the League this season. Mortensen was his usual aggressive self, taking the important wicket of Broad through Barnett's diving catch at cover, and only Robinson and Evans made scores of note.

Newell and Johnson both went to Warner, playing on, and by the time Saxelby was leg-before to Base, Nottinghamshire were having to compete as much with the gathering gloaming as with Derbyshire's seamers.

Robinson was offered the light when five wickets were still intact, but with 141 runs needed off 15 overs, he must have reasoned that his chances would have been little improved by starting afresh in the morning.

So he and Evans batted on gamely, making 112 off 13 overs. Robinson's placement and judgment of a run was particularly notable. When Malcolm began the 36th over, Nottinghamshire still needed 12 an over.

Only four runs had come from it by the sixth ball, which Robinson drove hard and upishly to mid-on. Warner's brilliant running catch settled the outcome.

### Second XI

RAPID CRICKETLINE CHAMPIONSHIP: Eastbourne: Sussex 250-6 (K Greenfield 89 v Yorkshire). Leamington: Kent 228-6 (M Ellison 108 v Worcestershire 44-0). Leamington: Derbyshire 228-6 (N Sparham 55 v N Pridmore 4-47). Leamington: 31-0. Worcester: Essex 201-5 (D Jones 31-4). Nottinghamshire: 31-0. (J J Bartlett 105, N J Pridmore 82). Nottinghamshire: 31-0. (J J Bartlett 301-4 (S P Tipland 117 not out v Surrey).



Handsome hitting: Haynes on his way to a score of 72 in the Refuge Assurance Cup semi-final. Report, page 38

## Glamorgan within striking distance

SECOND XI REVIEW BY SIMON WILDE

TWO successive victories have given Glamorgan an outside chance of winning the second XI championship for the first time since 1980.

A win by six wickets over Hampshire at Southampton on Friday left them 23 points behind Sussex, the leaders, as the two sides began their last matches yesterday.

Glamorgan's match-winners were Stephen James, the Cambridge University batsman who scored an unbeaten century, and Simon Dennis, the left-arm medium pace bowler, who took six second-innings wickets. Dennis had been instrumental in the previous win over Derbyshire, against whom he claimed seven for 46.

Sussex established their commanding lead with a two-day rout of Essex at Hove. Robin Hanley, who has since

been rewarded with a contract for next year, scored 161 before tea on the first day.

Glamorgan's final opponents were Nottinghamshire, who remain Sussex's most serious rivals for the title. Despite being outplayed at Folkestone by Kent, who beat them by 202 runs, Nottinghamshire lie 33 points behind Sussex with a game in hand.

Neal Radford, who has suffered as much as anyone this summer from the unfavourable bowling conditions, has been finding life in Worcestershire's second more rewarding. A fortnight after striking a rare century, he returned to first figures in this year's second XI championship, nine for 98, against Northamptonshire at Halesowen.

Leamington: Nottinghamshire 15, Sussex played 15, 204-6, 2, Glamorgan, 15, 181; 3, Nottinghamshire, 14, 171.

## Capel finger operation

DAVID Capel's decision to play for Northamptonshire in last Saturday's NatWest Trophy final against Lancashire with a broken finger, has ruled him out for the rest of the season. Capel took the field with a double break on the little finger of his left hand, inflicted by Courtney Walsh, of Gloucestershire. But now he needs an operation to

pin the finger and have metal screws inserted.

"The specialist feared this might happen if David played on Saturday and unfortunately there was a reaction," Steve Coverdale, the secretary of Northamptonshire, said. "He will be in plaster for three weeks and it's likely to be another three weeks after that before he is fit."

## Sri Lankans sparkle at Hove

By JOHN WOODCOCK

HOVE (first day of three: Sussex won 105): The Sri Lankans have scored 229 for two wickets against Sussex.

THE weather granted the Sri Lankans four-and-a-quarter hours yesterday in which to enjoy the delights of batting at Hove. In that time, after being put in, they made 229 for two. Hathurusinghe scoring his maiden first-class hundred.

Runs are a lot easier to score in England at the moment than they usually are in Sri Lanka. Richard Hadlee reckoned he could move the ball about more in Colombo than anywhere else in the world.

The humidity there is often rain

about. In the first of the two Test matches they have played in England, in 1984, Sri Lanka's 491 for seven declared was no problem to them.

Yesterday, only Pigott of the Sussex bowlers got much past the bat. Anything short was hooked or square cut with a resounding crack by Hathurusinghe - just the natural, wristy little player you might picture when thinking of the best Sri Lankan batsmen.

When Salisbury bowled, he soon found he was given half a chance. Hathurusinghe could drive as well. Kuruppu, who shared an opening partnership of 99 with him, looked more to get on the front foot, being the taller of the two.

He has the very considerable

distinction of being one of only three cricketers to have started their Test career with a double hundred - 201 not out against New Zealand, including Hadlee, at Colombo in 1967.

The others are R. E. Foster, who scored 287 for England at Sydney in 1907-8, and Lawrence Rowe - 214 for West Indies against New Zealand at Kingston in 1971-2.

Threllfall made it a day for firsts when, two years after making his debut for Sussex, he bowled Kuruppu and so claimed his opening first-class wicket.

Gurusinha retired with a knee strain, and Mahanama, called for a sharp single to cover point, was run out in the classical manner by Speight. I can see "young" George Cox doing just

the same soon after the war as he pounced on some unsuspecting victim.

This, of course, is meant to be the time of the season when the spinners were to be doing all the bowling, hence white pitches and reduced seams.

Instead, except when Salisbury was on with his leg breaks, Sussex batted away at medium pace, some of it brisker than the rest, as they have been doing for years now. As the only spinner, Salisbury is inevitably being overworked.

After 50 overs in the last match, he had another 17 overs yesterday, which cost him 59 runs. I expect he would take as many wickets in Australia; this winter as whichever of our left-arm spinners is named for England today.

## YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

### Refuge Assurance Cup Semi-final Derbyshire v Notts

DERBY (Nottinghamshire won 105): Derbyshire beat Nottinghamshire by 22 runs.

DERBYSHIRE: K J Barnett c Johnson b Saxelby 83; P D Bowler c Evans b Cooper 69; T J Morten b Robinson 44; A P Muger c Moke b Stephenson 74; T J G O'Gorman not out 20; G J Evans not out 19. Total (4 wickets, 43 overs): 229. B Roberts, C J Adams, D E Malcolm, O H McInnes, A E Warner and S J Ease did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-118, 2-134, 3-168, 4-253.

BOWLING: Cooper 8-4-40-1; Stephenson 10-4-51-1; Evans 8-4-38-1; Moke 6-4-48-0; Hathurusinghe 2-0-24-0; Saxelby 5-4-25-1.

### NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

B C Broad c Barnett b Mortensen 28; M Newell b Warner 96; P Johnson b Warner 96; M Saxelby b B B 86; K P Evans not out 85; G J Evans not out 19.

Total (5 wickets, 40 overs): 228.

K E Cooper did not bat.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-22, 3-48, 4-68, 5-87, 6-109, 7-207, 8-207.

BOWLING: Mortensen 8-0-27-1; Warner 8-4-41-2; Malcolm 8-4-51-1; B B 6-55-1; Cooper 5-0-30-1.

Umpires: B Dudson and R Palmer.

### Tour Match: Sussex v S Lankans

HOVE (first day of three: Sussex won 105): The Sri Lankans have scored 229 for two wickets against Sussex.

SRI LANKANS: K J Barnett c Johnson b Saxelby 83; P D Bowler c Evans b Cooper 69; T J Morten b Robinson 44; A P Muger c Moke b Stephenson 74; T J G O'Gorman not out 20; G J Evans not out 19. Total (4 wickets, 43 overs): 229. B Roberts, C J Adams, D E Malcolm, O H McInnes, A E Warner and S J Ease did not bat.

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## Moody's form likely to put Donald out in cold

By DENNIS SHAW

ALLAN Donald, Warwickshire's South African fast bowler, could become the target of several leading counties if he is released today under the new TCCB rule on overseas players. Warwickshire have to choose between Donald and Tom Moody, the Australian batsman, for the next season with the stipulation of one import per county.

Donald, 23, rated the fastest white bowler in world cricket, expects to become available because of Moody's remarkable form. "It will be a total shock to me if the committee plump for Donald," he said. "I'm from Bloemfontein."

Last season Donald took 86 first-class wickets, but this summer his haul was reduced to 22 because of injury. In that time Moody, capped four times by Australia, has scored the fastest century of all time in 26 minutes at Glamorgan in July - and created a county record for the fastest 1,000 runs, scored in 12 innings.

"Warwickshire desperately

need a batsman and they don't come much better than Moody," said Donald. "I've heard a lot of rumours over the past few weeks and all of them represent bad news for me. All cricketers get injuries at some time but my back problem could not have come at a worse time for me, just when Warwickshire had Moody in the squad."

The 6ft 6in Moody is second to Graham Gooch in the batting averages, with 89.46 after 15 innings. He has scored 1,163 runs, including seven centuries in nine matches.

Bob Cotton, the Warwickshire manager, said: "It is one of the most difficult cricketing decisions I have ever had to make."

Worcestershire are expected to be among the front-runners for Donald if, as expected, Warwickshire choose Moody. It would cost Warwickshire about £25,000 to terminate Donald's contract.

Leading article, page 11.

## EQUESTRIANISM

## Thompson pacing King Boris nearer a Burghley crown

By JENNY MACARTHUR

MARY Thompson, who became the national horse trials champion at Gatcombe Park last month, will attempt to add the Remy Martin Trophy to her list of successes when she competes at the Burghley Remy Martin Horse Trials, which start today.

Thompson is one of a handful of riders who will compete with two horses - King Boris, her national champion, and the year-old King Cuthbert, a former winner of Bramham and eighth at Badminton this year, who will be retired to the hunting field after this weekend.

The 30-strong entry - though fewer than usual because of the closeness to the world championships in Stockholm last month - is not lacking in quality. Blyth Tait, the world champion from New Zealand, heads the entry list. Other contenders include his compatriot Mark Todd, the double Olympic champion, Ian Stark, the winner of the team and individual silver medals in Stockholm.

Richard Walker, winner of Burghley in 1980 and 1982, Robert Lemieux, a former national champion, Sarah Cotton and Anne-Marie Taylor Evans, two of the reserves for Stockholm, and Pippa Nolan, the runner-up to Thompson at Gatcombe, are others in the field.

The most notable absentee is Virginia Leng, the European champion, who has been laid up at Burghley, five times. Although her horse, Master Craftsman, has recovered from the injury which kept him out of the world championships there was not sufficient time to prepare him.

Leng will be on hand to give advice to Thompson, who, having been left out of the team for Stockholm, is determined to produce a good performance so it will be impossible for the selectors to overlook King Boris' claims for a place at next year's European championship. Although the 11-year-old gelding lacks speed he is one of the most consistent cross-country performers as he proved when

finishing third and second at the past two Badminton.

Thompson's main rivals are likely to be Tait and Stark. Tait, at Burghley for the first time, is riding the New Zealand-bred Remy Martin, on which he won the Scottish championship last month. Stark's best hope of winning his first Burghley title lie with Charlie Brown, who was third at Sandown in June, and finished sixth at Gatcombe last month. Stark has also accepted a chance ride on Sarah Bullen's 11-year-old Al Fresco who completed Badminton this year despite a fall at the last going into the lake.

Todd, who finished first and second at Burghley in 1987, has also accepted a last-minute ride on Angela Davies's Face The Music, a nine-year-old who was clear but slow round Bramham in June. With Todd, the gelding won his class at Tisbury Park two weeks ago and was third at Lickworth Park last weekend. Burghley will be the horse's toughest challenge to date.

Mark Phillips, the course designer, describes this year's course as "basically the European championship course of last year, but with the sting taken out of it." More than 60 per cent of the fences have easier, but time-consuming, alternatives.

To alleviate the firm going, 300 tons of sand have already been laid on the course providing a sand track on the four-mile cross-country phase. Peat has also been laid on the landing side of the drop fences and, most significantly, the rising "ridge and furrow" going at the beginning and end of the course has been levelled out.

The event, which starts with the dressage, also includes the final of the Burghley Young Event Horse series, designed to encourage young riders to compete in eventing. The eventing event, horses: Rachel Hunt, Karen Straker and Lucinda Henson, the daughter of the Burghley director, Bill Henson, are among the riders who have qualified for the final.

## CROQUET

## Australian unbeaten

GEORGE Latham, aged 48, a teacher from Victoria, Australia, defeated Jerry Guest yesterday to become the only unbeaten player in the first stage of the Continental Airlines World Championships at Haringham, London (a Special Correspondent writes).

Carolyn Spooner nearly surprised Steve Mulliner to earn a play-off place against Jerry

Stark, but failed a hoop close to the end. Graeme Roberts qualified for the final stages by overcoming Keith Aiton after he broke down in the early stages of trying to bridge a sextuple pool. The best of the day was a knockout stage eventing event, horses: Rachel Hunt, Karen Straker and Lucinda Henson, the daughter of the Burghley director, Bill Henson, are among the riders who have qualified for the final.

Results, page 37

## TODAY'S FIXTURES

### FOOTBALL

PORTS CENTRAL LEAGUE: First of Hove: Nottingham v Huddersfield (7.0).

West Ham v Millwall (7.0).

### CRICKET

Tour match: 10.30, 104 overs minimum.

HOVE: Sussex v Sri Lankans.

OTHER MATCH: 11.0, 50 overs.

SCARBOROUGH FESTIVAL: Yorkshire v The Yorkshiremen.

RAPID CRICKETLINE: Second XI Championship: 10.30, 104 overs minimum.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE: Leicestershire v Nottinghamshire. Leicestershire v Derbyshire. Leicestershire v Warwickshire. Leicestershire v Gloucestershire. Leicestershire v Lancashire. Leicestershire v Somerset. Leicestershire v Wiltshire. Leicestershire v Devon. Leicestershire v Cornwall. Leicestershire v Dorset. Leicestershire v Glamorgan. Leicestershire v Kent. Leicestershire v Essex. Leicestershire v Middlesex. Leicestershire v Northamptonshire. Leicestershire v Oxfordshire. Leicestershire v Herefordshire. Leicestershire v Worcestershire. Leicestershire v Shropshire. Leicestershire v Cheshire. Leicestershire v Lancashire. Leicestershire v Yorkshire. Leicestershire v Derbyshire. Leicestershire v Nottinghamshire. Leicestershire v Warwickshire. Leicestershire v Gloucestershire. Leicestershire



Elland Road rumours over a transfer are dismissed as nothing but nonsense

## Jones vows to fight for place

By MARTIN SEABY

SPECULATION that Vinny Jones will be leaving Leeds United was quashed yesterday when the former Wimbledon player said he wanted to remain with the Yorkshire club which signed him last summer for a £650,000 fee.

Jones, aged 25, played in all but three of Leeds' 53 League and cup matches last season but his omission from the start of the first division programme has linked his name with Wimbledon, Chelsea, Sheffield United and, most recently, Wolverhampton Wanderers.

"I'm not going to pretend I'm not disappointed at being out of the side because I am," he said. "So would any other player but that doesn't mean I'm about to march into a manager's office and ask for a move. I'm training as hard as I can, and I want to get back into the team on merit."

"It's nonsense for anyone to claim I have set a deadline for a transfer request. I'm not a whinger and it is not Vinny Jones style to go complaining to the manager as soon as he is not in the team."

Jones, a fierce competitor on the field, has made an impressive contribution off it and, although he makes no claims himself, has done a large amount of work for the club in the off-season.

He points out that the same thing has happened to Peter Beardsley at Liverpool, and said: "When David Beatty was left out of the [Leeds] side last season, there was only the odd paragraph in the papers - but I get all this. It certainly doesn't help me and, frankly, it gets on my nerves."

Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds manager, has made it clear he needs a squad with quality in depth for their first campaign in the top flight for eight years. Of the latest rumour involving a Wolves bid, he said: "Their manager,

Graham Turner, has not mentioned anything about it to me. Jones remains an important member of the club."

Josef Venglos, the Aston Villa manager, will go on a spying mission to his native Czechoslovakia this weekend. Venglos and John Ward, his assistant manager, will run the rule over Villa's UEFA Cup opponents, Banik Ostrava, when they play FC Nitra on Sunday.

Ward said: "We had them watched at Coventry last month and have gathered together one or two pieces of information from the manager's contacts on the ground."

"Now, we can see for ourselves what they are like and by the time of the first leg at the Villa Park on September 19, we will be well acquainted with them."

Steve Stride, the Villa secretary, has already flown out to check on accommodation for the second leg on October 3.

● The Republic of Ireland are to make a two-match trip to the United States next year. They are likely to tour in late May or early June, and will play in either New York or Boston against the country which hosts the 1994 World Cup finals.

● A Football League tribunal has ordered Notts County to pay compensation to Scarborough, of the fourth division, for the signatures of the 16-year-old players, Richard Ward and Philip Hill.

The pair signed for County as Youth Training Scheme trainees in the summer after being associated schoolboy forms with Scarborough.

The tribunal decided that County must initially pay £2,500 for the two, £10,000 each if they play five first-team games, £12,500 if they make 25 senior appearances, and £25,000 if they appear 50 times.

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had to dispose of Southend United, however, and the players proved unequal to the task. They could do no better than draw 2-2 at the Recreation Ground, losing 3-2 on aggregate.

Darlington, members of the GM Vauxhall Challenge last season, can look forward to a second-round meeting with rather more glamorous opposition after beating Bishop Cleeve in the away goals rule following a 1-1 draw at Bloomfield Road.

Northampton Town, of the fourth division, can already claim a sizeable scalp, having seen off Brighton, of the second, in a 1-0 aggregate. Similarly Torquay United, also of the fourth division, enjoyed a 3-2 aggregate success over Bristol Rovers, champions of the third

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Fierce competitor: Jones wants to stay with Leeds

## Bray part-timers bow out in Turkish cup leg

TRABZONSPOR, of Turkey, eliminated Bray Wanderers, of Ireland, from the Cup Winners' Cup in the qualifying round in Trabzon yesterday.

Bray's part-timers held the Turks 1-1 in Ireland, but went down 2-0 in the second leg. Trabzonspor's goals came from Cukic after 48 minutes and Harandi after 63 minutes.

Trabzonspor are left with a demanding first-round tie against FC Barcelona in Trabzon on September 19. The return will be played on October 3.

● Paul Hart, the manager of Chesterfield, banished to the stand by the referee and re-

ported for bad language during a match last week, will start a self-imposed exile from the touchline this weekend.

Hart faces a Football Association hearing after Trevor West, the referee, alleged that he used "foul and abusive language" to a linesman during last Tuesday's game against Hartlepool.

Hart, a manager for less than two years, has submitted his version of events to the FA. "I bitterly regret what happened and I don't want anything like it to happen again," he said.

"I have decided that for the present time I am going to restrict myself to the directors' box."

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## Carter left to rue ballboy's blunder

FROM COLIN MCQUILLAN IN HONG KONG

AN ILLEGAL, cold replacement ball, introduced without the knowledge of either players or referee in yesterday's first round of the Hong Kong Open Squash championship, may have cost Paul Carter an outstanding victory over Brett Martin, and left the former British champion flustered and off official.

Carter, ranked fifth in England and 31st in the world, took the first two games against the World No. 6 from Australia, 15-9, 15-11. At the end of the second game, the official ball used on the blue-painted court with three glass walls at the Hong Kong Squash Centre was tossed to a ballboy for cleaning in the two minute interval.

The boy took an easier option. Carter, ranked fifth in England and 31st in the world, took the first two games against the World No. 6 from Australia, 15-9, 15-11. At the end of the second game, the official ball used on the blue-painted court with three glass walls at the Hong Kong Squash Centre was tossed to a ballboy for cleaning in the two minute interval.

Julie Hawkes, who took a new ball from his box and threw it unceremoniously to Carter and Martin to begin the third game.

So heavy was the cold ball that Carter was soon changing tactics because of broken strokes. Martin, a supreme shotmaker with an unresponsive ball, was able to wrest the initiative.

Not until the fifth game, with the replacement ball again running hot and true, did Carter turn seriously to the fray. Then, with the score at 11-11, officialdom struck again.

Hawkes turned down a last appeal from Carter, allowing Martin a vital advantage under the American point-per-rally scoring system again in use on the international circuit this year.

The Australian clinched the match 9-15, 11-15, 15-13, 15-8, 15-12.

Carter pursued the referee all the way to the tournament office, threatening to make an official complaint which even his opponent was ready to support. "It was a total disgrace," he said angrily. "I was 2-0 up when the ball was hot and soft. Suddenly it was dying everywhere. It was a mockery of the whole match."

## RUGBY UNION Full backs duel for position

By GEORGE ACE

NEXT Wednesday night at Ravenhill will almost certainly decide who will be Ireland's second-choice full back to Kenney Murphy. Colin Wilkinson, the Malone full back who gave a polished performance for Ulster in their 28-13 win over Spain, has emerged as a real challenger to Jim Staples, of London Irish and Connacht.

The occasion is the meeting of Ulster and an Exiles XV, and when the Irish panel of about 26 is named on September 17 for the game against Argentina at Lansdowne Road on October 7, one or the other will be named with Murphy.

What the selectors will have to decide is whether they prefer the flair of Wilkinson or the less spectacular, but equally effective, style of Staples. It will not be an easy decision.

Spain posed Ulster many problems in the opening 40 minutes and came back from seven points down to be all square at the interval. But the second half belonged to the inter-provincial champions, with a further 31 points being added before Spain scored a try which was converted almost on the whistle for no-side.

Robinson had a fine game at 16 in a very convincing victory. He was a perfect back, with a scrum half, and Alvarez and Malo up front were best for Spain, but cohesion was lacking. They will do well to prevent a whitewash in their final game, against the Ireland Under-25 side in Limerick on Saturday.

The 1990 MacGregor's assistants' champion showed a return to form, having missed the cut in his last three major competitions, had a remarkable fifty-four to go one up at the first. He followed with birdies at the second, fourth and fifth. In spite of a double bogey at the seventh he left I left I was waiting the ball well and that nice start set me on my way."

ERNIE Wilson, of Ayrle, collected birdies in the first five holes to consolidate an early night lead and win the Lord Derby's assistants' tournament by two strokes from John Murray, of Cherry Lodge, at Bury yesterday.

Wilson, a Scot based in Durham, returned a level-par 69 to add to his first two rounds of 71 and 64 to clinch the title on 204, three under par for the tournament.

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